

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 8, 2014

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Pledge by citizens of the Black Country

NOT only can the country's newest official citizens now call themselves British but they can also consider themselves proper Black Country folk as well.

For the first time the Black Country flag and its new anthem have been incorporated into a regular citizenship ceremony held in the region.

Twenty people from countries as far field as America, Jamaica, Pakistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe, were granted their official British citizenship at the ceremony with a Black Country twist at Dudley's Priory Hall.

They pledged an oath to Queen and country, sang the national anthem and signed the official register while the regional flag was installed alongside the Union Jack and St George's cross.

The Black Country anthem I Vow To Thee Black Country by folk band The Empty Can, was also played during the handing over of their certificates.

The song was declared the area's official anthem in the run up to the Black Country Day on July 14. It is being released and proceeds will go towards Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Superintendent registrar for Dudley Council Penny Fulford conducts around 15 citizenship ceremonies a year.

Man dies of stab wounds

A MAN aged 50 has died from stab wounds he inflicted upon himself at a house in Moxley.

He was rushed to hospital in the early hours of Sunday morning after police received reports of self-harming at an address in Thorneycroft Road.

Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: "The man was later pronounced dead in hospital. A post-mortem confirmed he had died from self-inflicted stab wounds."

SCARLET FEVER IS ON THE RISE

Report by Marion Brennan

CASES of scarlet fever are continuing to soar and are prompting health bosses to renew a warnings to parents. The Black Country has had at least 98 cases reported since September.

Rates nationwide have reached their highest levels for more than 30 years. In Dudley there were 16 cases, double the number of last year.

Wolverhampton has experienced an even bigger rise with 57 cases, compared to just four in the city last year. Sandwell had nine cases has compared to four and there were 16 in Walsall borough compared to its total of six last year.

There have been 116 cases in Staffordshire which prompted the county's public health boss Mark Sutton, Staffordshire County Council's public health boss to say: "We are asking parents to remain vigilant for signs and to contact their GP if they are concerned their child may have scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever was once a serious illness the good news is that these days it can usually be treated effectively with antibiotics."

Symptoms include the characteristic pink-red rash, sore throat, fever and headache and is most common in children under the age of eight, although adults can also develop the fever.

Impact

Efforts are continuing to find out why the number of cases of scarlet fever have increased so alarmingly. More recent figures suggested a possible decline in the rate of the increase but health chiefs say they have to assess the impact of children returning to school after the Easter break.

The alert was first raised in early April when the number of reported cases regionally stood at 255, compared to 98 at the same time last year. Investigations continue across the UK to assess whether a new strain may have emerged.

Sandwell has seen the biggest increase in large-scale housing estates with the borough council approving 34 in 2013 compared with 21 two years earlier. Dudley saw numbers rise from 11 to 17. In South Staffordshire the increase was from two to four.

More homes are on the way. More than 100 homes have been approved at Dudley's Friars Gate, off Priory Road, with some residents using the Government's Help to Buy scheme. Communities secretary Eric Pickles visited the new estate last month.

One recent site, subject of a further application, is for the former Springfield and Brickhouse neighbourhood office in Rowley Regis, which is going to be demolished and replaced with housing.

Children and adults are being reminded to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when they cough and sneeze.

Danni wins a gig in her garden



Uncle Frank performing at the home of Halesowen student Danni Griffiths

IT'S not every day an internationally-renowned musician rocks up to play a gig in your back garden. But Fun Lovin' Criminals drummer Frank Beninati delighted a fan and her friends when he arrived at her home in Wollaston for the one-off show.

Lucky 17-year-old Danni Griffiths, in Wollaston, won a competition for him to appear with his duo Uncle Frank alongside fellow musician Naim Cortazzi. The pair

chatted to Danni, a student at Halesowen College, and enjoyed a drink with those gathered before launching into their set inside a marquee set up for the occasion.

Danni, herself an aspiring singer, was among the winners of a competition called Step into My Room, for the band to perform at her home. Frank said the tour had been set up as a way of 'breaking down the barriers' between the band and audience.

MP joins rebel vote against HS2 plan

CONTROVERSIAL Birmingham to London rail project HS2 will go ahead — despite opposition from rebel Tories including Dudley South MP Chris Kelly.

Work on the first phase of the £50 billion scheme, including new stations in Birmingham's Curzon Street and beside Birmingham Airport, will start in 2017.

The project was pushed through by a vote in the House of Commons, despite 41 MPs voting against it.

Among the rebels was Dudley South Tory Chris Kelly. His fellow Conservative MPs Margot James, who represents Stourbridge, and James Morris, Halesowen and Rowley Regis voted in favour, as did Labour MP for Dudley North Ian Austin.

Supporters say the line promises thousands of jobs and will cut the journey between London and Birmingham to 49 minutes.

Mr Kelly said: "To get from any part of the Black Country to the new HS2 station in Birmingham during the day will, optimistically, take at least an hour by car, more like 90 minutes in the usual levels of traffic, or longer by public transport. That's before the high speed train has left the station. Current Sandwell and Dudley to London Euston services will be reduced and journey times extended."

Body found on rail line

A MAN has died after being struck by a train near to Dudley Port railway station.

British Transport Police were called to the line near to the station at 1.19pm on Tuesday.

Officers said the train involved was a Birmingham New Street to Shrewsbury service. Police and paramedics discovered the body of a man who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Transport police said it was being treated as non-suspicious.

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Readers get chance to meet authors

A FORTNIGHT of activities has been planned at a series of libraries to celebrate all that is great about books. The Big Book Fortnight will start on Saturday.

There will be several author talks in Dudley borough including an evening with journalist and author Sathnam Sanghera. He will be giving a talk at Halesowen Library on May 16 from 7.15pm.

Originally from Wolverhampton, he has written two books, 'The Boy with the Topknot: A Memoir of Love, Secrets and Lies in Wolverhampton' which was shortlisted for 2008 Costa Biography Award. His novel 'Marriage Material' looks at the lives of a Sikh family who run a Wolverhampton corner shop. Admission is £3. Book on (01384) 812980.

For children and families, Stourbridge Library will welcome children's author and illustrator Jo Hodgkinson on Saturday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Netherton Library will welcome Dudley-born author Michael Taylor on May 15 from 11am to 12.30pm.

Country authorities we have been celebrating Big Book Fortnight for 10 years. This is a great way to celebrate our local talent and give readers the chance to meet with the authors of books they love to read."

There will also be a readers' afternoon on May 17 from 1pm at the new Archives and Local History centre in Tipton Road. See www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries.

The beady eyes turn to glass museum

AN annual 'Beads Day' is returning to the Black Country for its tenth year this weekend.

Broadfield House Glass Museum is hosting the the popular free admission event on Saturday.

It features stalls selling handmade beads and complete jewellery, as well as demonstrations in bead craft.

Artists

To celebrate its tenth year, the museum is staging A String of Beads, an exhibition featuring beads made by artists from across the UK, accompanied by a full-colour catalogue of the same name.

The catalogue, written by bead maker Pauline Holt and sponsored by the Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum, is a light-hearted look at modern bead making in the UK as well as featuring images and artists details from the exhibition.

The day runs from 10am to 4pm and admission is free. Refreshments will be available.

Demonstrations will be carried out by Pauline Holt of Jazzy Lily beads, Barbara Mason from StudioB and Marlene Minhas from Glassygear.

Touring car to tennis court

RACING driver Matt Neal will swap his steering wheel for a racket when he takes part in a charity tennis match later month.

The 47-year-old former British Touring Car champion will play at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club's fun day and barbecue on May 17, from 10am to 4pm.

Neal will team up with head coach Lee Davies to take on his own agent and club assistant coach Kirk Woodall. Neal will also bring along his Honda Civic racing car to the event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice.

Race and potato

A THEATRE group is holding a race night fundraiser.

It will be hosted by Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society at Quarry Bank Community Centre on Saturday from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 children including a jacket potato. Call Julia on 07948394579.

Plumber is jailed for ripping off customers

A PLUMBER who conned thousands of pounds customers by overcharging them has been jailed for 16 months.

Steven Greenaway ripped off elderly victims across the Black Country and Worcestershire while a sub-contractor for emergency call-out companies.

In five cases since 2010, he overcharged customers by £3,825 for work such as repairing leaking pipes

Two victims were targeted after Greenaway was convicted on two counts of fraud relating to work for a 78-year-old Oldbury man with Huntington's disease.

Sentencing the 41-year-old from Kidderminster at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Michael Challinor said the age of his victim made the 13 charges of fraud he admitted even more serious.

Judge Challinor said: "You left your victims shocked at demands and feeling foolish and dismayed that they had been deceived."

Greenaway had 'seriously overcharged' for work which was sometimes inadequately carried out or not needed.

Greenaway, of Marlpool Lane, pleaded not to be jailed, saying imprisonment would be 'hard' for his family. But prosecutor Mark Jackson described Greenaway as a 'convicted confidence fraudster'.

A woman from Cradley Heath was charged £1,527 to fix leaks and install a new toilet system but the toilet still does not work. Her insurance company would only pay £200. Another victim, from Halesowen, was charged £787 to repair a downstairs toilet. Some of the work was not needed.

Judge Challinor took into account three offences relating to work for an 81-year-old widow, from Dudley.

The case was brought by Sandwell Council trading standards.

A date was identified in November for trial but PC Lowe's solicitor said he would not be available at that time an alternative date was available on January 5 next year. Judge Richard Griffith-Jones adjourned the case for trial.

Zhang, who was studying for a master's degree in data networks and security, was described as 'an exemplary student' and Birmingham City University has set up a prize in his honour.

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Students link up with museum



Arts students rehearsing before the Red by Night event at the Black Country Living Museum

STUDENTS are pulling together to tell the history of the Black Country under the stars. Dramatic performances, light shows and dance will dazzle visitors attending the Black Country Living Museum's Red By Night event next Saturday, May 17.

The Tipton Road museum has linked up with Dudley College students for the project as part of the annual Museums at Night festival which opens up attractions in the evening. The students have selected the museum's usually unoccupied settings

Trapshop, Blacksmith House, Anchor Forge and Lench's Oliver Shop to house unique performances.

Performing arts student Chelsea Young, 17, from Dudley, said: "We've already performed a couple of times at the museum, so when we were given the chance to use areas of the museum that the public don't normally get access to we were really excited."

Tickets are available in advance only on www.bclm.com/bookings or by calling 0121 520 8054.

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Song will celebrate the Black Country

A SONG celebrating the pride of the Black Country will be released on May 27.

The Emptys can look to break into the charts with their charity song I Vow to Thee Black Country.

It has been named as the area's official anthem as the countdown to national Black Country Day on July 14 continues.

The song, a Black Country version of the patriotic classic, I Vow to Thee My Country, is available to pre-order this month ahead of its official release date.

All money raised through sales of the single, which can be purchased for just 99p, will go to Compton Hospice. The charity has been chosen in dedication to Steve Evans, a former Wolverhampton City Council worker, magician, comedian and keen fisherman, who died in January aged just 52, following a two-year battle with stomach cancer.

The original song, I Vow to Thee My Country, dates back to 1921 when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst.

People can email blackcountryday@hotmail.co.uk to join the mailing list to receive email notification when the song is available.

Poison Boy top for teens

A SCHEME encouraging young people to read is entering its third year.

The Dudley Teen Book Award gives youngsters from the borough the chance to vote for their favourite authors.

This year 255 youngsters voted online and through their schools with Fletcher Moss chosen top author for his book Poison Boy.

Dudley librarian Donna Taylor said: "We are very proud of the success the award has had in reinvigorating a love of reading in the young, and we hope it continues."

Music in pipes line

A PIPE band is looking to drum up support for new members.

The Wolverhampton Pipe Band won its first contest in Scotland last year and holds practice sessions in Wednesfield on Tuesday nights. Visit www.wolvspbs.org.uk for further information

Lenny brings reggae play to city theatre



Lenny Henry will star in Rudy's Rare Records

COMEDIAN and actor Lenny Henry is returning to the West Midlands to star in a play based on a radio series he co-created.

The 55-year-old Freeman of Dudley will appear in the stage premiere of Rudy's Rare Records from September 4 to 20 — his first role at Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

It is based on the BBC Radio 4 sitcom which Lenny co-created and starred in for four series, set in a reggae record shop at risk of re-development in Birmingham.

Lenny plays Adam, son of owner Rudy, who reluctantly moves home to look after his dad and help run the shop. It has been

adapted for the stage by writer Danny Robins, who co-wrote the radio series with Lenny and Dan Tetsell.

Lenny said: "I have performed comedy gigs many times in Birmingham over the years but this is my first straight acting role in the city. It is also the first time I have been on stage at the Rep, which is something I am really looking forward to."

"Growing up in Dudley I would come into Birmingham every Saturday to hang out in a record shop not too dissimilar to Rudy's, so it is a play that is very close to my heart."

Lenny first made his name on talent show

New Faces and Tiwas, becoming a mainstay of TV comedy. He co-founded Comic Relief and has established himself as a serious actor receiving huge critical acclaim for his portrayal of Shakespeare's Othello and in the West End in August Wilson's Fences.

Rudy's Rare Records is directed by Paulette Randall and produced by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and Hackney Empire where it will run immediately after Birmingham. The production will feature an onstage reggae band.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

NEWS in brief

Music festival will be returning

ORGANISERS of a music festival, held for the first time in Dudley, are hoping to build on its success for next year.

More than 1,200 people attended the Love Music Hate Racism Festival at Dudley Town Hall on April 26. Bands from the Black Country and elsewhere in the Midlands played on two stages. Visitors could also browse stalls. The event, organised by Trade Unions and Labour, was one of three Love Music Hate Racism festivals in the UK.

New owner for heating business

THE ownership of a Brierley Hill heating business has changed for the second time in three years.

AmbiRad in Fens Pool Avenue is now part of the American group Nortek, which paid £154 million to buy the heating, ventilation and air conditioning division of Thomas & Betts Corporation.

AmbiRad say there will be no effect on its operation as a result of the deal. The 35-year-old company has an annual turnover of more than £30m.

Merson to speak at club's dinner

FORMER England, Villa and Walsall footballer Paul Merson is to be the guest speaker at a cricket club's annual dinner.

The former Arsenal star, who also managed Soldiers, will be talking about the World Cup at Beacon Cricket Club's dinner at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley hill, on June 12 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £40 available by calling 07946 587290 or 07971 077870.

Ex-Villa stars to help raise funds

FORMER Aston Villa stars will line up to play in a charity football match in aid of Beacon Centre for the Blind as part of a fun day on May 18 to raise funds for the Sedgley-based charity. Kick-off is 1.30pm at Hedgesford Town FC. To reserve a space on the coach from Sedgley email fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk

Tea and tunes

AFTERNOON tea with music will be offered at a church in Blackheath on Saturday.

St Paul's Church, in Long Lane, is hosting the free tea event from 2 to 4pm.

Motorist killed himself after hit-and-run death

A DRINK-DRIVER who knocked down a great-grandfather, who later died, killed himself as police got closer to charging him, an inquest heard.

Stephen Johnson, aged 41, had driven to buy a takeaway curry despite having been drinking for three hours when he hit 85-year-old Bernard Betts as the pensioner was walking his dog in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.

Theft led to ambulance power cut

AN AMBULANCE training centre was deprived of power for five days after thieves stole 40ft of cable.

Staff at the West Midlands Ambulance Service centre in Sedgley were forced to relocate to other venues while work costing thousands of pounds took place to restore power.

Thieves had broken into the nearby sub-station, which carries 11,000 volt cables, before digging up a 40ft stretch of cable and stripping it of copper wiring.

The trust had to organise emergency generators and additional security.

Julian Rhodes, head of training and education, said: "We are hugely disappointed that someone has caused this unnecessary problem to a service which is here to help the public in their hour of need."

Whilst operational staff are not based here, we train literally hundreds of operational staff every week to improve patient care. What these thieves did was not only damaging to the trust but extremely dangerous as they could've been killed."

On turning up at friend Philip Davy's brother's house with food down his top, he told Mr Davy another car had crashed into him and driven off.

But a week later, Mr Davy, who worked for Mr Johnson's paving company Pave To Perfection, was told by his brother in a pub that the 41-year-old had knocked Mr Betts down.

Mr Davy told police, who

then interviewed Mr Johnson, but he still denied knocking down the pensioner.

On February 3 last year, three weeks after he had been hit in the road outside his house, Mr Betts died at Russells Hall Hospital.

On March 20 last year, Mr Johnson killed himself. His mother found him dead in bed at his home in Stourbridge, the inquest was told.

At an inquest at Dudley Coroner's Court last week, PC Chris Blount said: "If [Mr Johnson] hadn't committed suicide he would have faced charges."

Debris from the scene of the crash matched Mr Johnson's car.

Black Country Coroner Robert Balmain said Mr Betts' death was caused by a chest infection and head and pelvic injuries suffered in the crash.

Mr Betts left a widow Lilian, aged 84. Their son Les, 65, said: "...The inquest finally gives us some closure."

Chaos on stage with showtunes



At the piano is Jayne Saunders, of West Bromwich, and, back left, is Liz Woodhouse, of Tipton and Sarah Chater, of Tividale. SHOWTUNES will serenade audiences as performers from an operatic company take to the stage.

Members of Cradley Heath Amateur Operatic Society, known as Chaos, have been busy in rehearsals ready for their show-stopping performance.

The show called Strictly Chaos is hitting the stage at Netherton Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, for three performances from tonight to Saturday.

Around 40 songs feature through-

out the musical revue, from theatre land classics to contemporary rock. Songs from West End shows including the Sound of Music and Blood Brothers are part of the show.

Spokesman Paul Murdock said performers, both children and adults, had created a vibrant atmosphere in rehearsals.

"Everyone enjoys coming together for the show. It allows everyone the chance to shine. We are known for our dramatic performances but this

revue is good for those who prefer to sing and dance," he added. Rehearsals have been taken place since the start of the year, led by musical director Trevor Collin and producer-choreographer Salli Woodhouse.

Shows start at 7.30pm each night. All tickets cost £9 and to buy them call the box office on 0121 585 7380 or visit www.chaosoperatics.co.uk.

The operatic company is also on the lookout for performers, especially men, for its next show Mack and

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YOU know you're getting old when your holidays start looking more like pilgrimages. By the time this appears, I should be taking a wee dram in the bar of the hotel in the little Scottish village that is forever Furness.

It was here in 1982 that a little-known film director, Bill Forsyth, brought together a small team of actors and one global superstar, Burt Lancaster, to make a movie which made the whole world smile. On paper, Local Hero is simply a story of a Texas oil company trying to turn a little Scottish bay into the petro-chemical capital of Europe, without bargaining on some canny locals and one stubborn old hermit (Fulton Mackay) who claims he owns the beach. But it actually goes much deeper. Local Hero is a film about values, weighing the world-conquering dollar against the simple pleasures of a quiet life.

The young oil executives sent to clinch the deal, McIntrye (Peter Riegert) and Oldsen (Peter Capaldi), quickly go native. First their ties disappear, then the smart jackets. Gathering seashells, McIntrye leaves his prized wrist-watch by a rock pool. As the tide rises you hear the alarm call, the tune of The Yellow Rose of Texas ("conference time in Houston") fading under the waves.

Forsyth set the fictional village of Furness in the real-life fishing village of Pennan, near Fraserburgh on the bleak north-east coast of Scotland. Local Hero became part of my 40-year love affair with Scotland.

As the referendum on independence draws closer, it occurs to me that I have never regarded Scotland as anything other than a separate country, a place apart in culture, language, banknotes, food and attitudes.

The thing that strikes me, and which seems so odd to us English, is the kinship between Scots. It's not that they all love each other but there is a quiet conviction, no matter where they meet, that to be Scottish is to belong to a very exclusive club. It is a kinship which transcends wealth and class, religion, politics, clan and even the old Highland-Lowland divide. It is based largely on the shared and bonding experience of living next door to the English. Which raises the question of what happens if and when the Scots vote for independence. What becomes of that kinship when you remove the unifying factor, the common enemy, the frightful Sassenach?

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TWO men were arrested and had their van seized in a crackdown on rogue traders operating in the West Midlands, which saw more than 50 vehicles stopped.

Police teamed up with trading standards and customs officers for the event in the car park of Wickes DIY in Mucklow Hill in Halesowen.

During the operation two men, aged 29 and 30, were arrested on suspicion of the theft of a set of number plates from Rowley Regis. They also face questions over petrol thefts.

Diesel

Two other vehicles were also seized. One motorist allegedly had no insurance, while the other was said to have offences on their driving licence.

The police operation also saw officers check if any vehicles were using red diesel, an agricultural fuel which is cheaper than normal fuel but is only meant to be used in farming machinery such as tractors.

Over the course of the day, between 10am and 4pm, a total of 55 vehicles were stopped.

Sergeant Martin Hall said it was one of a series of operations being carried out in the Halesowen area to clamp down on rogue traders.

He said: "It's really important for members of the

Report by Alex Ross

public to see that we are doing joint partner operations like this.

"People driving illegally or handling scrap metal in Halesowen and across the border into Sandwell, know that we will not tolerate this type of crime."

Other operations in the area have seen houses in Belle Vale and Hayley Green among the properties checked by officers to make sure that tradesmen are operating legally.

Signs are being installed in Halesowen to warn rogue traders they will be reported if they 'cold call' in a new No Rogue Trader Zone.

Pest control, path cleaning and hedge trimming are said to be just some of the common offers from conmen, with other fraudsters claiming to be carrying out water main repairs or even posing as police officers.

Nostalgia at school reunion



Reunion — Alan Scott, Sarah Cox, Jacqui Howells and Clair Phillips

FORMER pupils of a school in Kingswinford are being invited to a night of 1970s nostalgia with old school mates.

Four friends from Crestwood School in Kingswinford Lane have organised a reunion of former classmates who are celebrating their 50th birthdays.

The event is the brainchild of 49-year-old Alan Scott who along with friends Sarah Cox, Jacqui Howells and Stuart Fereday set up a Facebook page and decided to hold the reunion. So far they have managed to contact 100 former pupils. Mr Scott said: "When I retired as a police officer I had a lot of old school mates who said that I had too much time on my hands and I should organise a reunion."

"I went online and found some of my old friends. With most people having celebrated or about to celebrate their fiftieth birthday it seemed the right time."

The reunion is at Himley House on June 21 from 8pm. Tickets cost £15. Contact classof76@outlook.com or visit www.facebook.com/groups/539139589469530.

The new bishop gets warm welcome

THE new Bishop of Dudley has been given a 'characteristically warm welcome' by community leaders.

Rt Revd Graham Usher was consecrated into his new role by the Archbishop of Canterbury at St Paul's Cathedral last week and on Saturday, he was officially welcomed to his new diocese at St Thomas and St Luke in Dudley.

Dudley Mayor Alan Finch, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Paul Sabapathy CBE and Imam Hashmi Qudoos, Senior Imam at Dudley Central Mosque, were among those to greet him.

Inspired

He replaces the Rt Revd David Walker, who is now Bishop of Manchester.

In his sermon, Bishop Graham said: "I ask you to pray for me to be the kind of bishop that has inspired me in the past."

In a personal pilgrimage the bishop cycled and walked 32 miles to Worcester before rowing across the River Severn to the cathedral, where he was made Canon. Bishop Usher grew up in Ghana and went to school in Yorkshire.

He was ordained in 1996 and started his ministry in Middlesbrough. He has been married to his GP wife Rachel for 18 years and the couple have two children.

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Majority of budget is spent on conference

BIRMINGHAM City Council has spent nearly all of its major event budget on hosting a Conservative party conference, it has emerged.

City chiefs agreed to splash 95 per cent of the authority's event budget to hold the Conservative party conference later this year.

The authority will spend a total of £1.48 million of taxpayers' cash for the event between September 29 until October 1, which will be spent on hiring out the International Convention Centre, as well as security, transport and traffic costs.

Cuts

This means Europe's largest local authority with be left with just £67,000 to use on other events. Labour MPs in the city claim the deal – made while the city was still controlled by the Conservatives – has left the council's budget hamstrung.

The council is looking to make £85.7m of cuts in 2014-15 as they try to save £822m by 2015.

Labour MP for Edgbaston, Gisela Stuart said: "Whether this was a Labour Party conference or a Conservative Party conference it wouldn't be right. For an outgoing Conservative leader to sign off on such an expensive party conference makes it doubly bad."

However, investment body Marketing Birmingham claimed the conference could generate up to £20 million for the region's economy.

1,100 have say on plans to cut jams at busy junction

MORE than 1,100 people have had their say in a consultation on multi-million pound plans to cut congestion at one of the Black Country's busiest islands.

Transport bosses at Sandwell Council held a consultation to gauge public opinion on four possible options for the busy Birchley Island in Oldbury. The consultation ran until April 25.

Around 700 people filled in online questionnaires and another 100 people sent in replies by post. The council's Facebook page also had more than 350 comments on the proposals.

Nick Bubalo, the council's area director regeneration and economy, said: "It is a little too early to answer detailed questions about the results of the consultation because we have to look at the overall results before coming to conclusions.

"In all 700 people filled in the online version of the questionnaire and we believe that the posted forms we received will take up to overall replies up to about 800."

Traffic is heavy around the island at peak times, and queues block off approach roads so there are further problems changing lanes to leave the island, which is a major gateway into Sandwell, at junction two of the M5.

Option A, estimated to cost in the region of £10.5 million, would see the M5 link widened with traffic

lights put on all approach roads. The second potential scheme would include option A, but would also involve extending the Wolverhampton Road through the roundabout to create a two-way 'hamburger' island. That could cost around £12.7m.

Option C, potentially the most expensive at an estimated £14m, would be almost the same as option B except the Wolverhampton Road would only go across the roundabout in one direction, northbound, and a one-way link from the M5 to Churchbridge would be created.

The final scheme, estimated at around £12.9m, would see a traffic junction created similar to that at Burnt Tree, Dudley. The results of the consultation will now be gathered and assessed for a report to councillors in June. Then a business case will be submitted to Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership for submission to Government.

Motorway fencing sparks safety fears



Jessica and Ronnie Millington, front, with back, from left, neighbour Dave Parker and Councillor Jeff Hill by the fence

RESIDENTS living near the M5 have appealed for dilapidated fencing between their homes and the motorway to be replaced.

People living in Lansdowne Road in Halesowen say they have long asked the Highways Agency to install new boundary fencing.

The current fencing has been in place about 30 years and is falling apart.

But despite the Highways Agency beginning works to replace 300 roadside fencing panels between junctions

two and three – there is still no date for when the residents' gardens will get the same treatment.

The Highways Agency says its hopes to replace the fencing in the 'near future'.

Couple Ronnie Millington and Andrea Cope have put repeated calls into the agency for replacement panels since moving into their home in Lansdowne Road last year.

They have two children, and are concerned the broken fencing, which runs 70ft long, could pose a danger.

Miss Cope, aged 39, a factory worker, said: "In the bad weather during January about 20ft of the fence came down and we had to stand it back up using cabling but it is far from secure."

"We ultimately worry about the fence, or part of it, falling down on our young children when they are out playing in the garden."

Councillor Jeff Hill is working with the residents to put pressure on the agency. It comes after the agency answered the calls of residents in Woodhouse Close by replacing fencing panels.

NEWS in brief

Mothers show solidarity at shop

DOZENS of mothers gathered to show their support for breastfeeding in public.

The show of solidarity for the Free to Feed movement was outside Sports Direct at Merry Hill shopping centre. It was chosen due to the alleged treatment of Wioletta Komar at the Nottingham branch of the chain, where she claims she could not breast feed her baby as it was 'against company policy'.

Rachael Doré, a nurse and mother-of-two, was one of the organisers and attended with her 10-week-old daughter Nancy. The 29-year-old said: "This is just to raise awareness that mothers should be able to feed wherever they want."

Staff at Sports Direct in Merry Hill declined to comment.

Police recruiting student officers

A RECRUITMENT drive for 140 student police officers has been launched. West Mercia Police and Warwickshire Police are advertising for the roles and successful candidates may work in either area.

There is also a new College of Policing's accelerated Fast Track promotion and development programme. It aims to train the most talented graduates to advance to the rank of inspector within three years. Three candidates will be recruited for that programme.

The deadline for applications is May 16. Visit www.westmercia.police.uk/join-as-a-police-officer.html

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**IN MY VIEW**WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

A PLANNING application submitted to Wolverhampton Council last week sought permission for 'The reconfiguration of existing signage suite'. Or, in English, 'moving the signs outside McDonald's.'

□□□□□

Having just returned from a short break in Holland, three things spring to mind. Firstly, what a beautiful corner of the world it is, with its elegant architecture, lovingly preserved windmills and scenic canals.

If only we were half so good at making the most of our canals and old buildings in the Black Country, then it would be a much better place to live, work and shop.

Secondly, it did strike me how absurd it was that it took just 55 minutes to fly from Birmingham to Amsterdam, the journey ends up taking more than six hours by the time you have negotiated security and customs at either end, found somewhere affordable to park, and spent the customary half hour haggling with the car hire people on arrival.

But most of all, it struck me how terrifying it can be walking around otherwise genteel towns and cities which have been taken over by militant cyclists.

It all looks so respectful in Van Der Valk, where little old ladies in period costume gently amble over the bridges, smiling at the pedestrians walking by.

But in reality, they just come whizzing at you from all directions, manically ringing their bells to order you out of their path. The only thing you can do is play hopscotch as you seek to avoid one after another.

And if you're driving, it is even more unnerving, as they just shoot across the road at their designated crossing points, without giving a second thought to what might be coming in their direction. Convinced of their own invincibility, these people never give a second thought to the Green Cross code.

But strangest of all is the zeal that people in that country have for cycling. To them, particularly the young, cycling is not simply a hobby or a means of transport, it is a way of life that must never be questioned.

Perhaps it is the result of years of indoctrination in schools, or maybe just something which has been ingrained into their culture through the centuries. But it does serve as a worrying pointer as to what could happen over here in years to come.

Politicians talk benignly about 'the need to encourage cycling'.

Cycling has its place, and maybe if more people were encouraged to use this means of transport, there could be a reduction in congestion on our roads. However, if anybody wants to see what happens when it is unquestioningly accepted as something which should be encouraged at all costs, they should go to Amsterdam.



A nibbler machine was used on blocks in Walsall



Oldbury's Albright and Wilson Houses come down



Grange Court in Wolverhampton, demolished 2009

POLITICSWITH
DANIEL
WAINWRIGHT

GEORGE Osborne came under fire from Black Country MPs Valerie Vaz and Ian Austin recently at a time when the Chancellor is basking in the warm glow of an economic recovery.

And he says there are well over one million more people in work now than when the Coalition came to power. Dudley North's Mr Austin is not so sure the good times have reached the West Midlands.

He said: "The only people who are not worse off than they were four years ago are the super-rich? His wilful refusal to accept what every ordinary family in the country know from their daily experience just goes to show how out of touch he is."

But the Chancellor had a few statistics suggesting he thought things were going pretty well in Dudley.

"The honourable gentleman talks about who has felt the benefit of growth. What about the people in his constituency who have got a job, where unemployment has fallen by 17 per cent and youth unemployment is down 18 per cent? What about the 1.5 million people who have got jobs as a result of this Government working through their long-term economic plan?"

And Labour MP Miss Vaz, who represents Walsall South, said: "According to the Office for National Statistics, unemployment in the West Midlands has risen to 8.2 per cent, can the Chancellor explain why?"

"There are also pictures of Grange Court, just off the Ring Road in Wolverhampton which was described as the city's first high rise."

Mr Quigley added the archive contained other interesting facts: "There is a Wednesday tenants handbook, which also has a 'care of a bath' section, which I found hilarious."

"There are also pictures of Grange Court, just off the Ring Road in Wolverhampton which was described as the city's first high rise."

And he went on to add: "Bolton Court in Sandwell was called a 'gateway to the town' meaning Tipton, by the chair of housing when it was opened in 1965. It became part of the huge demolition programme by Sandwell Council, more than 60 blocks, and now only the car parks remain."

But while there is already a wide range of material for web users to browse through, project leaders are now on the lookout for further items and stories to add, as well as new volunteers to help with the investigation.

Mr Quigley said: "The materials we've found so far provide a great insight into the blocks themselves and also the lives led within them, but we are always looking to add more to add to the website."

One person who is championing the positive aspects of high rise life is Dave Cocker, who has lived in tower blocks for many years, and says he has happy memories of the experience.

He currently resides in Russell Court in Graiseley, Wolverhampton, but had previously lived in Wesley Court in Portobello, Willenhall. He said: "When I lived at Wesley Court the community spirit was very good. You knew everyone on your level, if not the block. We used to be quite naughty back then because we would go onto the roof and have barbecues. We were all adults and we were quite safe but we would go up there and sunbathe, or read, and just relax."

Anyone interested in volunteering or contributing items as part of the project should visit www.distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk/blockcapital or discuss the project with Chaz Mason on 01902 552040/552194.



Dave Cocker, aged 56, at Russell Court in Wolverhampton, where he lives

JONATHAN PRITCHARD
reports on an archive which
has been delving into the
past of high rise living

**FOR some they are a blot on
the landscape.**

But, love them, or loathe them, tower blocks have been a familiar site on the Black Country's skyline for decades and have provided a place to call home for thousands of people.

Now a new archive is documenting the history of the tower blocks which sprung up – and came back down again – since 1960s onwards.

The archive has been set up by a group called Distinctly Black Country, which studies the history of the area.

Landmarks

Members are appealing for help from members of the public to help them collate details of the region's landmarks.

Paul Quigley, project researcher, said: "Council housing is a big part of the architecture of the Black Country, but there is very little written about its history. They have affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have lived there. We are focused on the tower blocks of the 1960s at the moment, but we are welcoming any help we can get from the public."

Thirty volunteers have been working on the project since autumn last year, along with staff based at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

They have been collecting the materials to go on a website on the subject, as well as stories from people whose lives are connected to the blocks.

Their investigations have so far focused on 20 tower blocks in the centre of the Black Country across Bilston, Darlaston, Tipton, Wednesbury, Wednesfield and Willenhall.

Mr Quigley said: "They are quite a controversial type of architecture but for all their bad points they are still a big part of the area."

"People think that their experience in the tower blocks doesn't mean anything. But what we are trying to say is that if you don't record your memories then it is going to be lost forever."

"It is the sort of thing that future generations will be interested in."

The work carried out by researchers has led to the discovery of maps and original planning documents, along

with the council reports which led to the demolition of flats. There are also written testimonies from former tenants, more than 150 photographs, and a comprehensive list of all 276 tower blocks ever built in the Black Country, produced by author Miles Glendinning.

Mr Quigley said there are a range of interesting items on the website including Butterfield Court in Eves Hill, Dudley, which featured on the iconic cover of the 1971 Led Zeppelin IV album.

The flats were home to the band's drummer John Bonham who died in 1980.

It's sort of obligatory at the moment to talk about Ukip in any politics column. The not-quite new kids on the political block look set to do very well in the European elections but with their new status and popularity comes a heck of a lot of scrutiny.

The moronic individual from London who suggested Dudley's Lenny Henry should move to a 'black country', when in fact he was from the Black Country all along, has stood aside. But Ukip is finding comments people made years ago are coming back to haunt them.

So it was with Walsall Council candidate David Wycheir with his question over the eligibility of Mo Farah to have competed for Team GB in the Olympics, given that he was born in Somalia.

The fact Mr Farah is a British citizen who spent the majority of his life in this country appeared not to give him the vital clue.

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THE recent revelations that BBC's Panorama team brought to our television screens were heartbreaking — I was moved to tears.

I applaud the brave whistleblowers, the dignity of victims' families and the diligence of the programme makers, whose combined actions have hopefully instigated justice.

The documentary has now sparked an inquiry by Essex Police on alleged abuse and an appeal for members of the public, who wish to report allegations of crime relating to the hidden camera film footage, to come forward.

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If you then find it is not for you, at least you will have some money that you can go and have some fun with.

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

J BLAKE
Lower Gornal

I do believe, both personally and as the principal representative of my organisation which supports private sector care providers throughout the West Midlands, I have an obligation to bring some sense of perspective to the matter.

While sadly it is still necessary for such investigative journalism to uncover alleged cases of secretive elder abuse, the incidents we viewed are extremely rare and the vast majority of care on a national and regional level is excellent.

My worry is that those elderly, frail

and dependent people who desperately need more watchful care could understandably refuse a residential setting package that would enhance their living experience.

I can only encourage their families and loved-ones not to vilify all carers because of what they have seen. The vast majority are professional, compassionate and give above and beyond their contractual obligations.

DEBBIE LE QUESNE
Chief Executive
West Midlands Care Association
Halesowen

LETTERS | to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Farewell to a GP who really cares

I FELT I had to write about the sad departure of Dr S Johal from the Bull Street Clinic, Lower Gornal. I have had the privilege of being one of Dr Johal's patients for the last three years and I am gutted that she has left.

She is the most wonderful GP I have ever known. I felt she was a friend as well as my doctor. She is such a kind, caring and genuine person who did so much for me. She has such qualities that you can't be trained in and you can't get paid for, these come from the heart.

Her empathy is second to none. When my baby grandson died she was upset for me and even gave me a hug, how many GPs would do that? Many of the medical profession would do well to take a leaf out of her book.

She really is an angel, I can't praise her enough. She knows how highly I thought of her and she said to me she hopes she doesn't change, but I'm certain she won't, she is humble and modest and this will always hold her in good stead.

So thank you Dr Johal from the bottom of my heart, for never giving up on me. Our loss is Codsall's gain, and I hope you and your family will continue to be showered with life's blessings. God bless you.

At the least, make HS2 British built

SO they are going to inflict this HS2 white elephant upon us. We do not know the true cost, £50 billion is certain to be a very optimistic guesstimate. As for the so called benefits — who really knows?

Articles talk about reducing the time to get to London, is nobody going to be travelling north, assuming Londoners know where Birmingham, let alone want to go there. As for going any further north, there will probably be no money left to extend it after 2026. They are not going to connect it through to the Channel tunnel, so only Londoners are allowed to go to Paris and Brussels.

It would be some compensation if some of that £50bn(?) stayed in the UK. Where will the rails be made, China? Where will the rolling stock be built, Germany? Will it be constructed by a British company with British workers?

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A history of the Bodfish family tree

MY TIME OVER 50S

THE April meeting commenced with a talk from Mary Bodfish entitled "Singularities of Bodfish".

This talk was all about the Bodfish family tree. As a teenager Mary was shown four marriage certificates by her father, the earliest being the wedding in 1838 in Tadmarton near Banbury, of her great great grandfather John Bodfish. As a result, Mary was completely hooked on researching her family tree.

She went further back in time following the name back to Northamptonshire. In the 1980s Mary was contacted by Ralph Bodfish from California who was looking to link the American Bodfishes to the English line. A Robert Bodfish had emigrated to Massachusetts a short time after the Mayflower had landed.

The family name gradually spread across America to California, with a Bodfish Park in Barnstable, Massachusetts, and a Bodfish town in California. The name even migrated north with the whaling fleet into Alaska.

Mary's research shows that anyone, anywhere with the Bodfish name is from the one English family.

The Bodfish name has also been found in Maclesfield taking the name back to the 12th century.

Thanks were given to Mary for such an interesting talk and introducing some very entertaining ancestors.

The next meeting is on May 28 when Mr Ray Sturdy will be introducing 'The see and hear quiz'.

After guild business the chairman introduced the day's speaker John Billingham.

Sausage making demo by butchers

PELSALL 'E' TG

THE outing on April 16 was to Ashbourne in Derbyshire. The first stop was at Fairway Garden Centre for a browse and shop before moving on to Ashbourne town centre for lunch. Carsington Water was the alternative venue.

At the guild meeting on April 17 the formal opening section included reports from the treasurer and the Lunch Club and Walking Groups.

Speakers for the evening, Mark and Steve Turner, Pelsall's local award-winning Butchers, gave a talk on their family history and meat in general, which they followed with a sausage making demonstration.

Four members tried their hands at sausage making and after much laughter at their efforts, were allowed to take their 'produce' home.

The remainder of the sausages were sold in aid of the Air Ambulance charity which, together with the Mark & Steve's donation of their fee, raised £90.

Carol Manlove and Pat Westwood were joint winners of the monthly competition for the most popular decorative plate, and Hilda Craddock won the raffle.



Butchers Steve, left, and Mark Turner

Outgoing committee praised

BLACKHEATH MW TWG

THE meeting was opened by chairman Marlene Stratton who welcomed all members and visitors.

Marlene thanked the outgoing committee members for their work over the years and each one was presented with a thank you card and a lovely rose bush. Beryl who is not retiring was given a china plant pot.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 28 when Mr Ray Sturdy will be introducing 'The see and hear quiz'.

His talk was 'Images of Worcestershire, with slides included views of places like Newnham Bridge, the bridge over the river and of the cathedral. Beryl Hartley gave the vote of thanks. The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 28 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, at 10.30am.

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It's a wrap for growth after showcase success

A VINYL wrapping company is preparing to expand – weeks after it carried out a 'showcase' job for a nearby haulage firm.

Wrap Kings, in Maypole Fields, Cradley Heath, covered a newly-purchased lorry with various images to mark the 10th anniversary in business for an Oldbury company.

And co-owner of Wrap Kings Ben Hamblin announced the firm would be moving to a new workshop in Hayes Lane in June.

It will see the firm's base expand three-fold and result in a new graphic designer and vehicle wrapper being employed, therefore increasing the number of staff working there from three to five.

Mr Hamblin, aged 25, from Wollaston, said: "We're extremely proud of the work we do – on daily commutes I can pass a number of vehicles and projects that we have completed, which fills me with satisfaction."

Inspiration

"The success means we are proving really busy with our diary booked up for the next eight weeks, this is why we need to expand."

Among the work which has been carried out in recent months is a monster truck and the 10th anniversary lorry project for The Little Pot Transport, which operates from its base at The Haulage Yard, Trinity Street, in Oldbury.

The commemorative designs which were realised using the number 10 as inspiration included ten pin bowling, a 10mph sign and Bo Derek, famous for acting in the 1979 film 10.

Mr Hamblin, who runs Wrap Kings with 27-year-old brother Will Hamblin, said: "The lorry was a showcase



Little Pot Transport owner Julian Pottinger



Number 10 images include Wayne Rooney



Bo Derek and Ben 10 in the artwork



Tenpin bowling is represented

at Ridgewood High School in Stourbridge, launched the firm seven years ago after leaving education. He said: "It is a lot of hard work and late nights, but come the end of it, it can be worth it. I'm really pleased with how we are getting on and look forward to the expansion."

The company provides vinyl wrapping for a range of items including for cars, vans and trucks. Both brothers are 3M Authorised Vehicle Wrappers. Ben Hamblin, a former student

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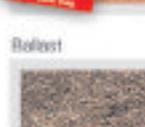
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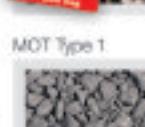
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Wolves boss Stan Cullis and his players admire the championship trophy they won in 1954



FA Cup triumph for West Bromwich Albion in 1954



Jim Sanders can't bear to watch as Ronnie Allen makes in 2-2 from the spot

It's 1954 and football kings of the Black Country reign supreme

SIXTY years ago, Black Country football stood at the very summit.

Last Thursday marked the anniversary of Albion's 1954 FA Cup triumph which brought to a climax what must be considered the finest season in the history of the region's football.

In these few square miles of hotly-contested turf between Molineux and The Hawthorns, come the evening of May 1, 1954, English football had to concede supremacy. Wolves, champions a week earlier, had deprived their neighbours of what would have been the 20th century's first double.

For compensation, runners-up Albion had to content themselves with a 3-2 FA Cup triumph over Preston North End, another major force at the time.

But the dual triumph made the pair the kings of the era while writing an epic chapter to a rivalry that thrives to this day. The surviving members of the thousands of Baggies fans who poured down to Wembley will be dwindling in numbers now but they

MEMORY LANE
by Martin Swain

surely cling to the memory of this period. This would be the start of Wolves' greatest years with a team that swept forward powerfully and quickly and thrilled to the wing play of Mullen and Hancocks.

Albion's rise with an older group of players which did not have the youthful back-up Stan Cullis had foreseen at Molineux, would be more short-lived. But the team of '54 is no less fabled. Coached by the under-regarded Vic Buckingham, they produced the kind of game with which Hungary had humiliated England the previous November.

"The Team of the Century" one commentator memorably labelled them and to this day they are still regarded as the club's finest. With Wolves winning their first Championship, there would be one further echo of this collision of rivals and stylists the following September when they contested

the Charity Shield. As was the custom, the game was staged at the home of the league champions and 45,000 fans gathered at Molineux to see the fireworks. And fireworks they got as Albion twice came back from two-goal deficits to draw the game 4-4.

Watching from the sidelines, a young member of the Wolves groundstaff had his imagination fired. Ron Atkinson says today: "There was no-one taking any prisoners. But they were two fantastic teams, it's as simple as that. We all just watched in wonder really."

Behind the outcome of this Wolves-Albion head-to-head 60 years ago, lie all manner of curiosities and even conspiracy theories. Back then, representative football took priority and having largely ignored the 66-goal partnership between Ronnie Allen and Johnnie Nicholls, the FA's selection panel suddenly picked both for a Scotland-England game at Hampden on the same day Albion would be facing Wolves.

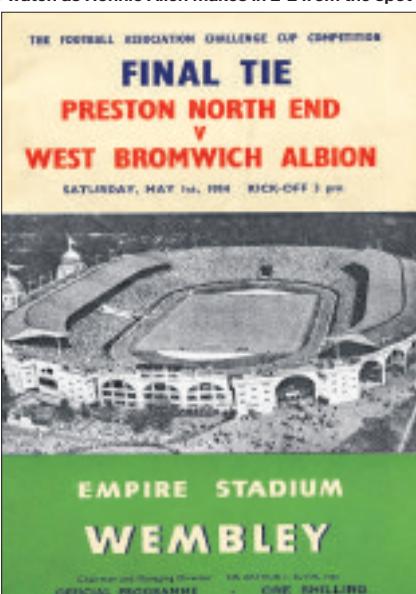
The gold and black would be without Billy Wright and Jimmy Mullen for the same

reason but absence of the two forwards was deemed a greater loss in most circles. Was there mischief to this? The Albion corner will always believe the influential Wright recommended the Allen-Nicholls call-ups to balance out his team's handicap. Wolves won the game 1-0 but the reverberations continued for many a year.

The outstanding 'playmaker' Ray Barlow had to play up front and having scored a couple against Wolves the previous season, legend has it Wolves defender Bill Shorthouse gave him a blunt warning: "You won't be scoring two today, mate."

Whether by accident or design, Barlow took a meaty challenge from Shorthouse and limped out to passenger status on the wing. When, years later, Allen took over as Wolves manager one of his first acts was to give youth coach Shorthouse his cards.

Separately, Albion and Wolves went toe-to-toe as fiercely as ever to dispute the biggest club trophies football had to offer back then. But together, on this night 60 years ago, they reigned supreme.



The programme for the 1954 FA Cup final

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Second City tunnels to close for six weeks

WEEKS of closures of two of Birmingham city centre's tunnels will begin in July, the work is needed to replace behind-the-scenes technology which has been there since they opened, says bosses.

The second phase of the refurbishment of the St Chad's and Queensway tunnels through the city will mean the route is closed to all traffic from 10pm on July 18 until 6am on September 1.

Two weeks of overnight closures, from 10pm-6am, will be needed beforehand and a further four weeks of similar closures will then be in place.

Transport

Between 75,000 and 85,000 vehicles use the tunnels every day. During similar closures to the route last summer, more than 200,000 extra journeys were made on public transport as motorists could not use the tunnels.

Bosses say they will need commuters to make the same sacrifice again from July as the works cannot be avoided.

Transport chiefs say the overhaul is needed to install live traffic monitoring equipment, which will allow bosses to respond quicker to any accidents inside tunnels and avoid the familiar knock-on effect of long queues on the Aston Expressway and from the M6 motorway.

Electricity supplies first installed in the 1960s and untouched since, also need to be brought up to the latest European standards.

Jet fans will meanwhile be installed through the lining of the tunnels to ventilate car emissions. That will be the most noticeable change visible to motorists after the work is completed as most of the improvements are behind the scenes and walls of the tun-



From left, city council traffic manager Kevin Hicks and Amey's Ian Faddy

nels themselves. Jet fans will replace the old Saccado nozzle style fans currently underneath Paradise Circus.

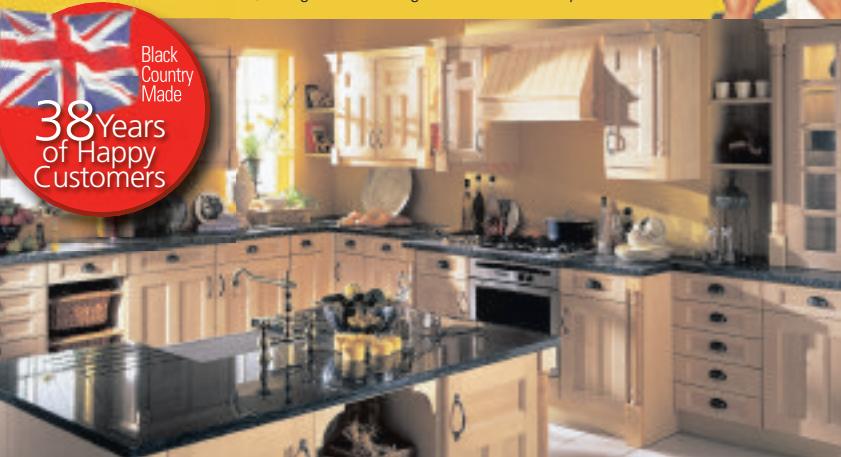
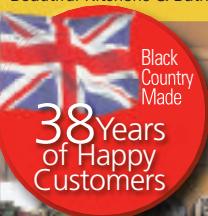
The live traffic monitoring will detect any delays via a network of cameras and sensors which feed into a centre at Lancaster Circus.

It will allow for electronic messages

to be sent to drivers in the event of an accident, linked into traffic bulletins. During this summer's planned closures, work will include installing 21 CCTV cameras and 27 PA speakers - which will also give out traffic information when needed. To find out more visit www.brumtunnels.co.uk website.

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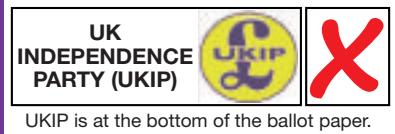
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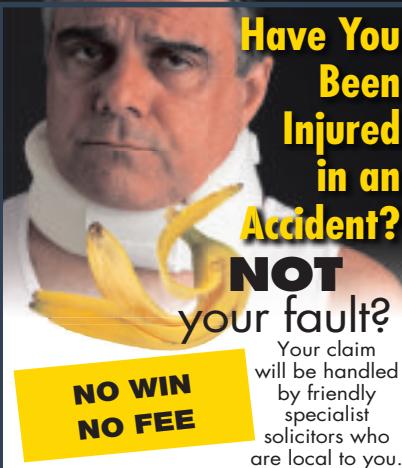
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Popular Vulcan will make an appearance (Picture: Andrew Brown)

COMPETITION

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The Chronicle series is giving readers the chance to attend this wonderful experience on Sunday, June 8 with eight pairs of tickets to be won.

Whether it's reminiscing about the 'Good Old Days' while watching the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight or standing in awe of the Red Arrows who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary, the six-hour flying display holds delights for all.

Other military aircraft in the flying display are the RAF Chinook and Army Apache taking part in an exciting demonstration of their combat capabilities along with the Tucano displaying in a special 'Lest We Forget' paint scheme. Civilian aircraft include the Breitling Wing Walkers, the Canberra

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There is a large indoor craft fair along with three hangars containing interactive displays showcasing the best of both the Royal Air Force and local organisations, including open aircraft allowing you to sit in the cockpits.

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Tickets are £20 in advance, £25 on the day (cash only and subject to availability) and free for children under 16 when they are accompanied by an adult. Car parking is free.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.cosfordairshow.co.uk](http://cosfordairshow.co.uk) or by calling the credit/debit card 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls are 10p per min plus network charges). All profits go to local and service charities.



Red Arrows' display (Picture: Jamie Hunter)



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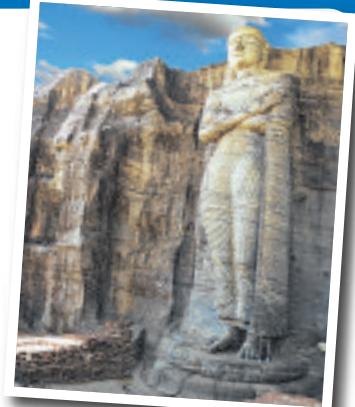
Which special anniversary will the RAF Red Arrows be celebrating at the RAF Cosford Air Show?

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Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tissa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.

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Helping youth to be independent

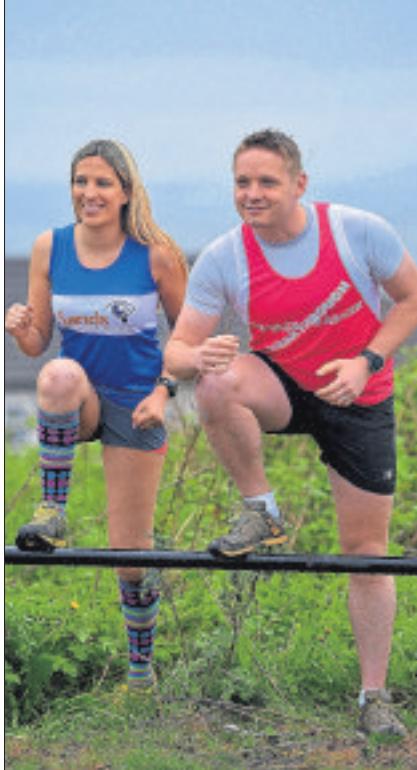
TEN young adults were celebrating after successfully completing a council's independent travel training programme.

Each person was presented with certificates for achieving an entry level course, run by Dudley Council, called working towards independent travel. It is accredited by the Open College Network (West Midlands Region).

The course is aimed at equipping young people with the skills and knowledge to travel on their own for school, college and in their leisure time, hugely impacting on their own lives and that of their families too.

The scheme covers issues including road safety awareness, journey planning, using public transport, personal safety, contingency planning and money skills.

Dirty weekend to help good causes



Lisa and Rob Edwards ready to face a new challenge

CRAWLING through mud and clambering up walls, Lisa and Rob Edwards are proving their toughness with five challenges for charity. The couple from Lower Gornal have completed the Birmingham Half Marathon and Shakespeare Half Marathon but now have sights set on the world's longest assault course.

The challenges are to raise money for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity — after friend Nina Gayden had a still birth, another friend Alison Jones and Lisa's mother Jacqueline Pearson were diagnosed with breast cancer, all in the past two years.

Mrs Edwards, aged 34, said: "After a dreadful two years, I decided to try and do something, give myself a challenge and get sponsorship for the charities which can help."

Mrs Gayden is now pregnant while Mrs Jones is recovering following chemotherapy and Mrs Pearson has just finished her chemotherapy.

The couple will take part in the Rat Race Dirty Weekend, the largest obstacle course in the world, in Lincolnshire on Saturday. Visit virginmoneygiving.com/lisaandrob

Giving homeless youngsters a roof

IT has been described as 'B&B with love' and has helped around 250 homeless young people to get back on their feet.

Now the YMCA Black Country Group's Open Door project, which helps teenagers to get off the streets, is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The project aids mainly 16 and 17-year-olds to get into homes of their own and further education after finding themselves homeless.

It does so thanks to a small army of generous volunteers who open their own homes to take in the youngsters.

Around 70 households across the Black Country have signed up to the scheme during its five-year life and currently hosts provide more than 12,000 nights of accommodation per year.

Open Door project manager Nathan Adams said: "One of our hosts described it as B&B with love."

For details contact Rachael Taylor on 0121 524 1974.

Former Albion steward died after walking in front of car

WEST Bromwich Albion's former assistant chief steward was hit by a car when he walked out from behind a bus, an inquest heard.

Michael 'Mick' Hodgetts was knocked down as he stepped out from behind the bus he had just alighted from at the junction of the A4123 Wolverhampton Road and Brandhall Road in Oldbury. He died from his injuries. The 54-year-old had been out for a

drink and was yards from his home. The car that hit him was travelling between 28 and 33mph on a road with a 40mph limit.

The driver of the orange Fiat Punto, Parmjit Singh Bains, who was heading into Birmingham to work in a bar, would have had 0.8 of a second to see Mr Hodgetts, police estimated. That's around half of the 'thinking time' a driver needs to react.

Now a bank worker, Mr Bains, 26, of Russells Hall, Dudley, said: "I saw him

at the point of impact. My recollection was I did not have time to brake."

Smethwick Coroner's Court heard that a paramedic helped Mr Hodgetts, of Queensway, before an ambulance arrived. He died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on October 5.

Senior Coroner Robin Balmain said cause of death were fatal injuries to the head and brain as a result of a road traffic collision. He said: "There was nothing unusual or improper about the manner of the driving of the car."



Collision — Mick Hodgetts

Merry Hill is to be re-branded

A £407 MILLION take over deal of the Merry Hill Shopping Centre has been completed.

Intu Properties will take over the running of the Brierley Hill based complex after buying half of the centre which had been owned by Westfield. The complex will be known as intu Merry Hill and a re-branding has been launched.

Its new website intu.co.uk/merryhill has also gone live and posters and leaflets are being distributed throughout the complex. The company already owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester, Metrocentre in Gateshead and Lakeside, Essex.

Plans for a major revamp of the site are in the pipeline. The other owners are Australian investment body QIC.

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Picture plea for school reunion

FORMER pupils school are being asked to bring their old photographs to a school reunion next month. More than 70 people are expected to turn out to the reunion for former pupils of Tividale's primary and secondary schools on May 13, starting at 11am.

The event at Tividale Football Club in Hawfield Road, is open to any youngsters who were at Tividale Primary School, Tividale Secondary Modern or Tividale Comprehensive from the 1940s onwards.

The event is being organised by Wendy Squires, now 73, who was a pupil at the primary school from 1946 to 1953. Mrs Squires, who was Wendy Wall in her school days, has been organising the events for the last five years, and on previous occasions old pupils from as far afield as Vancouver had turned out.

MORE airport-style security and bag searches should be introduced in West Midlands schools, governors have said after the fatal stabbing of a teacher in Yorkshire.

Spanish teacher Ann Maguire, aged 61, who was due to retire in September, was fatally injured last week at Corpus Christi Catholic College in Leeds.

A 15-year-old boy remains in custody and West Yorkshire Police have confirmed that Mrs Maguire died from multiple stab wounds.

School governors in the West Midlands say this case shows the pressing need for increased security. It comes after it was revealed earlier this month that 12 children have been excluded from schools in Wolverhampton for going in with weapons. Seven of the cases involved knives. The city's council is the only authority in the Black Country to hold such figures for the past two academic years.

Councillor Elizabeth Walker, former children's services chief in Dudley, is a governor at both Wollscote and St James's primary schools in Dudley and a member of the corporation of

Dudley College. She said: "Weapons are easily available for those who are so disposed to carry one. As the culture grows for stabbings, people may consider it a way to defend themselves."

"There's also so much stress on young people with their emotions, exam pressures and things like cyber bullying to contend with."

"There's a case for airport-style security in some schools. I know it would make some schools look like a fortress but life is more precious. This sort of incident is caused by the society in which we live. There is so much aggression in young people too."

Bid to build youth skills

A TRUST which helps young people find employment within the construction industry has linked with Dudley Council on its latest project.

The Construction Youth Trust aims to work with the authority on a new course which will offer training and support for job seekers.

The trust has run eight courses in Dudley borough since June 2013, reaching 135 people in the 16 to 30 age group.

Officials want to target towns where there is a high level of disadvantaged young people by taking a mobile classroom into the heart of the community.

Young people are offered taster sessions and short accredited courses relating to the construction industry.

It's rags to riches as dancers leap to win



Tazmy Rickards flies high before other group members

THEY look like the cast of a top West End production, and now they have the fame to go with it.

Members of Flare Dance Academy in Dudley are dancing for joy after winning one of the top prizes at a national competition. The team of boys and girls dressed in rags managed to impress the judges at the Eurodance competition in Brean Sands, Somerset, with their interpretation of Les Misérables in the show dance category.

It was the first year that the school, run by 37-year-old Emma Brookes, has taken part in the category, so they were even more surprised when they stormed their way to the top and took home the winner's trophy.

She said: "The group has gone from strength to strength over the last seven years and they have performed beyond my expectation." They meet at Cosley School in Herne Drive. Claire Hall, the mother of 14-year-old dancer Elle Hall, said: "It is absolutely amazing that they have come back winners."

The group is now looking at entering more competitions and even plan to compete abroad.

Devil of a night at debut album launch

AN UNSIGNED band from Dudley is gearing up for a special gig near their home town. Netherton-based four piece rock band, Devil Red, will be playing at Moochers, Stourbridge, on May 30 as it embarks on the release of its first EP album.

The group, made up of singer Grant Silk, guitarist Anthony Lunn, drummer Mike Piggott and bass player Jordan Staten, has been playing in the Black Country for the past four years and has supported former Iron Maidens frontman Blaze Bailey and many top tribute acts.

Anthony said: "We also chose Moochers, Stourbridge, for this event due to the quality of sound and the hard working efforts from the management to support live local bands and taking the time helping our event to be a success."

The band's keen following by fans online has also landed them a spot on a tour of Poland this summer. Hard copies of the EP will be available to buy at the album launch.

Push for more security at schools after teacher killed

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
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Luxury London without the frills

Leon Burakowski visits a smart but affordable hotel as part of a theatre trip to London's West End

A LONDON break remains one of the most popular mini-holidays in the UK and those looking for a smart hotel stay can experience affordable luxury at The Nadler Kensington.

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The family room option includes a mini-kitchen with microwave and fridge, Nespresso coffee machine, large ensuite bathroom with bath and shower, HDTV with free internet access. This makes light self-catering a feasible option and, as a nice touch, you can even request from reception your very own rubber duck for bath time.

The affordable luxury concept does away with expensive fuss and frills. So there is no restaurant, bar or spa. You get what counts, a comfortable and clean room, helpful and informative staff, with art decorated surroundings that befit a modern, quality hotel.

There is a facility to have breakfast delivered and the hotel has exclusive discount vouchers that can be used at several local restaurants, including a generous 30 per cent off at Gourmet Burger Kitchen on Earl's Court Road.

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The entrance to The Nadler Kensington



The London cast of Jersey Boys

of the Natural History, Science and Victoria & Albert museums. Earl's Court Underground Station is next to the popular exhibition halls and gives fast access to the shops and theatres of London's West End.

The London stay isn't really complete without a trip to a show. One of the most popular remains Jersey Boys, which won the Olivier award for best new musical in 2009. The story of 1960s and 70s hitmakers Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons recently moved to the famous Piccadilly Theatre, in Denman Street near Piccadilly Circus. It features some strong language but it is a funny and fast-moving production. It follows the blue collar boys from

the mean streets of New Jersey to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame with such pop classics as Rag Doll, Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like A Man and My Eyes Adored You. Michael Watson recently took on the starring role as Frankie Valli and the show has extended its run until at least February 2015. Call the box office on 0844 412 6666 or visit the theatre's website.

For more information on The Nadler Kensington, where single rooms start from £107 and superior from £195 per room per night, call 0207 244 2255, email Kensington.info@thenadler.com. It also has sister hotels in Soho and Liverpool, for more information or to book see www.thenadler.com website.

New centre opens in brave Harry's name

A NEW centre for families in the Midlands to spend time together when a loved one is ill has opened its doors.

The facility is named after 11-year-old Harry Moseley who, despite suffering from an inoperable brain tumour, raised cash for good causes by selling handmade bracelets.

The Harry Moseley Family Centre opened last week at Birmingham St Mary's Hospice.

The £365,000 new centre in his name was made possible thanks to £103,000 funding from the Help Harry Help Others charity which has continued to raise cash after Harry's death in October 2011.

It will allow families to stay and sleep in the same building when patients need to stay overnight to help control their symptoms, and when they are too unwell to be with their family at home.

Ribbon

The new centre is based in the garden of the hospice, which already cares for around 1,000 people a year from across Sandwell and Birmingham.

The hospice helps and supports families and loved ones of all ages throughout a patient's illness and after bereavement for as long as necessary and is based in Selly Park, Birmingham.

George Moseley, Harry's mother, cut the ribbon at the opening of the new centre, which was attended by her son's charity's ambassadors, including former Villa man Ian Taylor, Heart FM DJ Ed James, acting twins James and Oliver Phelps - who played the Weasleys in the Harry Potter films, and Michael Johnson, formerly of Birmingham City.



A new centre opening will be named after Harry Moseley, who died aged 11

She said: "I'm a bit emotional opening this as I know what this centre will be used for. I'm glad to be here with ambassadors from the Help Harry Help Others charity because they were his team and they believed in him, and I'm glad people believe in me to carry on that work."

Ed James added: "Harry had such an amazing attitude. He never had a bad day because he never let anything get him down."

Tina Swani, hospice chief executive, said: "This will bring a lot of comfort to a lot of families who need support at the most important time."

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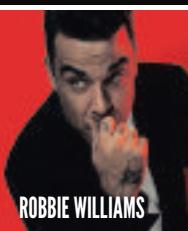
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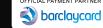
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18 The secret of an amazing illusionist

Derren Brown, Infamous, Wolverhampton Grand

I HAVE been sworn to secrecy. Like anyone else who has seen TV illusionist Derren Brown's live show Infamous, I have been asked not to reveal what happens in his act.

That could be a problem for a reviewer but I am happy to pledge that no spoilers will be found here. I would not want to spoil a hugely enjoyable living as a stage psychic or a card sharp.

Warm and witty Pam spreads joy

Pam Ayres

Birmingham Town Hall

HOW very reassuring that in these hurried high-tech days there is still a place in society for our Pam's poems.

Even those who don't remember her 1975 debut on Opportunity Knocks, where rhymes read in her Berkshire burr won her top prize and took her to the Royal Variety performance, seem to love her.

But despite the number of your faces in the audience, her main fan base lies with the more mature, the sort who take great delight in finishing off Pam's verses. This they did repeatedly last week and while I would normally wince, this time I didn't mind at all. That is the effect Pam has.

The spreads joy and light and leaves you feeling a little more at ease with the world. She interspersed poems with stories about her life, warm and funny anecdotes.

She treated us to one of our favourites I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth but otherwise the poet with 29,000 Twitter followers was very much of today.

the theatre for those who have got a ticket. They will be selling fast once word gets around from Monday's sell-out show about his jaw-dropping, mind-boggling tricks.

He never suggests they are anything more than tricks but maintains the magic by not fully revealing how they are done. If Brown was less scrupulous he could no doubt make an equally lucrative living as a stage psychic or a card sharp.

The 43-year-old Londoner is without doubt a superb showman and his witty, rapid-fire delivery enhances his potent blend of conjuring, deception, memory techniques, body language reading, psychology and hypnosis.

Put simply, he makes the apparently impossible happen and that has a much greater impact on stage than on television.

Infamous continues until Saturday. Leon Burakowski

Reviews



Warren Sollars with feather boa as Marc Bolan of T.Rex

A night when we were boa to boogie

20th Century Boy, New Alexandra Theatre

THE feathers were flying — quite literally — as we sang, nodded our heads, got in the groove and waved our complimentary red boas.

Had the clouds of feathers floating in the air glued up the sound system we wondered, as the start was hit by a 40-minute delay? Whatever the technical difficulty, the wait was soon forgotten in a feast of glam rock revelry.

You didn't have to be a fan of this 70s superstar to enjoy the story of his search for success, his loves, de-

mons and all-to-soon death. This nippy production had the tragedy told through the eyes of his son Roland as he, himself, sought to find the truth and it worked sublime.

This young and lively cast gave it their all. Warren Sollars as Marc brought this icon back to us for a while while Luke Bailey as his son emanated tenderness.

Dance routines were tight and the music gloriously loud.

20th Century Boy is coming to Wolverhampton Grand from June 30 to July 5.

Infectious folk worth catching

Moulettes
Robin 2, Bilston

KICKING off with Sing Unto Me, The Moulettes laid out their stall with harmonies producing orchestra-sized music. The voices of Hannah Miller and Ruth Skipper melded wonderfully with the harmonies of Eliza Jave, Emma Gatnell and Ollie Austin, as they filled the room with their original sound.

They were joined on stage by support act Kate Young, who added the rich strand of her fiddle playing to the proceedings.

The band uses a bewildering array of instruments including autoharp, bassoon, synths, cello and double bass. The obvious enjoyment of the group on stage was infectious and they moved from prog-rock to classical and back to thumping folk with ease.

One of the highlights was a wonderfully complex offering for Songbird. The Moulettes may not be as well-known as other 'folk orchestras' such as Bellowhead but don't underestimate their talent.

Danny Farragher

Down Easy, a song familiar to Paloma Faith fans but sampling the Betty LaVette 1965 soul classic and practically turning it into a duet, plus Scream (Funk My Life Up) which signals the Glaswegian singer/songwriter's switch from jaunty to funky.

Nutini has a sold out concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 30.

The Pixies (mark II, Kim Deal having left) have released Indie Cindy (Pixiesmusic) their first full studio album since 1991's classic Tromp le Monde,



Yorkshire band Embrace are having a major impact with their comeback album

Embrace

(on Cooking Vinyl)

features uplifting rock anthems

with a touch of electronics and the key

track is Follow You Home, a Killers-like

firework hit. Tracks like Refugees, I Run

and At Once seem to have found a

happy and very lucrative medium be-

tween Coldplay and The Kaiser Chiefs.

Embrace are in concert on Sat-

urday at the O2 Academy in Birmingham.

Paolo Nutini's comeback was worth

the wait as Caustic Love (Atlantic) is

a stunningly good modern soul album.

It draws on quality roots such as Sam

Cooke and Otis Redding whilst feeling

contemporary and, of course, having

the distinctive rough yet soulful Nutini

vocal. The last person to do something

in a similar vein so very well was Amy

Winehouse with Back to Black.

The key track is the epic Iron Sky

with its sampled speech by Charles

Chaplin from movie The Great Dictator

calling for people to maintain their hu-

manity in the machine age.

Other highlights include Let Me

Down Easy, a song familiar to Paloma

Faith fans but sampling the Betty

LaVette 1965 soul classic and practi-

cally turning it into a duet, plus Scream

(Funk My Life Up) which signals the

Glaswegian singer/songwriter's switch

from jaunty to funky.

Nutini has a sold out concert at Wol-

verhampton Civic Hall on May 30.

The Pixies (mark II, Kim Deal having

left) have released Indie Cindy (Pixies-

music) their first full studio album

since 1991's classic Tromp le Monde,

made up from their recent EPs. The

acerbic guitar style and Black Francis's

declaratory vocals have changed litte.

The Pixies still have a way with a

menacing lyric — "half asleep with a

loaded gun, in a room with a lightbulb

sun" from Silver Snail — and are adept

at both wild-eyed rock (Blue-Eyed

Hexe) and power pop (Ring the Bell).

Dynamic Mexican guitar duo Rod-

riko y Gabriela's new album 9 Dead

Alive (Rubyworks) features nine tracks

highlighting their virtuosity and bristling

with restless energy. Each of these

acoustic guitar instrumentalists has a

dedication, including Russian novelist

Dostoyevsky and medieval queen El-

eleanor of Aquitaine.

It's required listening for fans of fancy

fretwork and those coming from a

a rock angle could particularly enjoy

Fram with its relentless rolling power.

A nautical theme pervades Haul

Away (Play It Again) Manchester folk

singer-songwriter Liz Green's atmos-

pheric album of sea shanties and intro-

spection with a wonky music hall influ-

ence. Admirers of Tom Waits and Toris

Amos should seek this album out.

Hampered by one of the worst band names ever, London 60s outfit Tinkerbells' Fairydust (Grapefruit) disappeared after their eponymous album was pulled by Decca. However, it became sought after on the rare vinyl scene, selling for up to £1,000 on a certain online auction site.

The reissue reveals a decent if unremarkable sunshine harmony pop offering, exemplified by the likeable In My Magic Garden. There are also tracks from obscure spin-off bands and a cover of Jeff Lynne's Follow Me Follow.

Latest boy band sensation The Vamps, fronted by singer/guitarist Brad Simpson from Sutton Coldfield, have zoomed up the chart with their debut Meet The Vamps (Virgin EMI) and to their credit they have created their own buzz on YouTube rather than riding on the back of a TV talent show.

It is bright and breezy guitar pop in

the McFly mode, already yielding hits

Can We Dance, Wild Heart and Last

Night, plus a version of Paul Simon's Cecilia. They will be in concert at Birmingham NIA on October 5.

Leon Burakowski

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SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

Fashionably frugal on catwalk for college

THEME park tickets and a trip to the headquarters of one of the biggest banks were up for grabs at a money skills project organised by fashion students.

Walsall College students put on a catwalk show to teach their peers how to dress to impress without breaking the bank as part of Barclays Money Skills Week.

The bank's money management schemes took place at further education colleges earlier this month.

A group of 10 fashion students performed a succession of Style on a Budget catwalk shows at the Littleton Street West campus where they showcased different outfits that had been bought for under £20.

The clothes were for casual wear, the office and a night out and students had to guess the total cost of the five designs for their chance to win a £20 outfit gift voucher.

Headquarters

The week's programme included a 'Built for Business' competition, where teams of up to four students came up with their various ideas for a small business.

Prizes included tickets to Alton Towers, iPad Minis and an all-expenses paid trip to Barclays headquarters in London.

A Barclays Money Skills stall was also set up in the atrium offering students advice about money as well as the chance to win further prizes.

Volunteers from the banking giant also gave talks to students on 'Keeping Your Money Safe' and 'Careers at Barclays'.

Walsall College's student finance and support co-ordinator Gail Houghton said Barclays Money Skills Week was a great way of engaging students and teaching them about fi-



Tanya Marowa, Priya Randhawa, Beau Westwood, Lynsey Jane Mallin and Edina Green

nancial awareness. "It has created a real buzz about the College and it will help students to develop key life skills which are critical to their future success," she said.

Head of education at Barclays Chris Hearn said: "Around the UK, young people are facing unprecedented social

and financial challenges. We recognise that, through the Barclays Money Skills programme, our resources and knowledge as a business can help young people overcome those challenges and gain the skills they need to achieve independence and financial security."

Wheel of fashion spins into square

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THOUSANDS of prizes to be won – you could even become fashion royalty!

New Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich is giving away thousands of prizes this week – with one lucky winner being named Fashion King or Queen of the Square!

Taking place on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17 shoppers will be invited to take a spin on The Wheel of Fashion to be in with a chance of winning one of the thousands of prizes including shopping vouchers, cinema tickets, meals and a grand prize worth £300!

Inspired

All those who spin The Wheel of Fashion will be entered into a draw to win the grand prize.

The winner, who will be picked at random will be crowned Fashion King or Queen of New Square and enjoy a fashionable day and night at the shopping centre.

The prize includes £300 shopping vouchers, lunch, dinner, free parking and cinema tickets.

The game show-inspired wheel will be on a specially-designed stage within the mall area of the shopping centre and will be open from 11am-3pm.

Shoppers, aged 16 and over will take to the stage for their turn on The Wheel of Fashion, whatever space they land on will determine if they win a prize.

Steve Burr, Centre Manager at New Square said: "The Wheel of Fashion celebrates New Square's exciting fashion, beauty and entertainment offering, with a host of prizes from River Island, Odeon, Outfit Fashion, Nando's, Tesco, JD Sports, Primark and Bank."



Go for the summery look with this outfit by Dorothy Perkins



Topman helps to wrap up the latest fashions on sale at New Square

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WIN with the Wheel of Fashion at New Square

16th & 17th May, 11am – 3pm

WIN fashionable prizes by spinning our Wheel of Fashion!

Your exclusive invite to experience this seasons fashionable new trends, menu's and films at New Square. Make sure you come down and spin to WIN!*

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A FASHIONABLE
DAY & NIGHT AT
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Get ready for summer with our luxurious chino shorts. Available as a pleated style they provide a comfortable, classic fit and are constructed from tough and hardwearing 100% cotton, the perfect complement to a pair of deck shoes. Featuring deep quarter pockets with stylish lining, two rear pockets and a sturdy zip. Machine washable at 30 degrees.

Sizes:

Waist 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48".

ONLY
£29.99
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mix and match any two pairs of chinos or shorts

MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT DECK SHOES

BUY ANY TWO PAIRS FOR £30

This new range of ultra lightweight deck shoes are the perfect choice for the summer months ahead. Available in a choice of lace up or slip on and in choice of four colours. Featuring a durable sole with non-slip grip, and padded footbed for additional comfort. The slip on shoe features a co-ordinating stripe canvas lining. Upper: man-made. Lining/sock: man-made.

Sole: man-made. Sizes: 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

ONLY
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Lace Up

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Slip On

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Brighten up your wardrobe with our new range of men's pleated front chinos. Available in six seasonal colours. The hardwearing 100% cotton twill is lightweight and the concealed zip fly closure includes a French Bearer button to secure a neat and tidy fit that will carry you through the summer season in comfort and style. Slash pockets and twin back pockets with button and belt loop waistband. Regular fit, machine washable.

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Waist 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48".

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BUY ANY TWO PAIRS FOR £35

These casual shoes are perfect for a range of summer activities. With luxury suede uppers, twin elastic inserts and cushioned insoles, they are made with your comfort in mind. The slip ons feature a cushioned ankle collar and pull-on heel tab for easy access.

A handy heel and toe bumper ensures these shoes remain scuff free. The shoes are finished off with a robust, sure grip soles for long lasting regular wear.

Upper: suede.

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ST LUCIA RATTAN GARDEN LOUNGE SET

Transform your patio area, conservatory or garden into a contemporary living area with our luxury 4-piece rattan effect garden set. With a stylish design, the set includes two chairs, a two-seater sofa and a glass top coffee table complete with soft grey cushions. Made from weatherproof rattan effect PVC, this maintenance-free set can be left outdoors all-year round, without the need for covering.

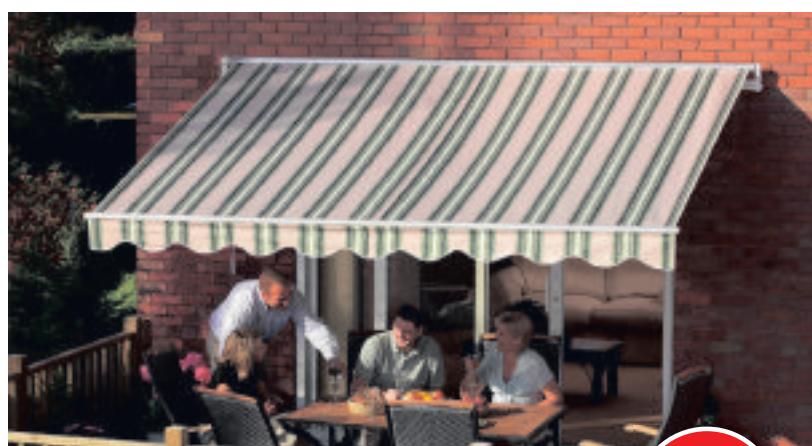
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Easyfit Awning				
Solar Cherub	D3949		£24.99	
Patio Cleaner	D7265		£9.99/£17.99	
			If order only includes solar cherub or patio cleaner P&P is:	£3.95
			If order includes an awning P&P is:	£9.95
			If order includes rattan furniture P&P is:	£19.99
			TOTAL	

What's On!

Panic break out at the Civic Hall

LAS Vegas rock band Panic! At The Disco follow up the top ten success of latest album Too Weird To Love, Too Rare To Die by bringing The Gospel Tour to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday.

Tickets cost £24.75 to see Brendon Urie and co in action at the Civic with a bundle of high-energy, synth-led anthems as the band tour in their own right after supporting Fall Out Boy.

Last year was the most successful yet for the MTV favourites who grabbed attention in 2005 with their debut album A Fever You Can't Sweat Out and the hit single I Write Sins Not Tragedies. Too Weird is their fourth album.

Call 0870 320 7000.

Theatre on song for Sister Act

TICKETS have gone on sale for the West Midlands amateur premiere of musical comedy Sister Act at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, from Tuesday to Saturday.

Based on the popular 1992 film starring Whoopi Goldberg, it tells of a night-club singer who hides from gangsters in a convent, and decides to bring a little soul power to the nuns' choir.

Tashka Cox stars and tickets cost from £13.50. Visit www.wbos.co.uk

Prince leads rock and pop royalty in week of star gigs

Oh Boy! Grand on Holly days

BUDDY – The Buddy Holly Story recreates the roots of rock 'n' roll at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday, May 19, to May 24, as the show celebrates its own silver anniversary.

The meteoric rise and untimely death of the Rave On and Peggy Sue rocker from Texas, who once rivalled Elvis and went on to influence The Beatles, is covered in the two-hour show featuring 20 hits with Roger Rowley as Buddy.

Ben Richards plays arrogant rock god Stacee Jaxx in Rock of Ages The Musical, also featuring Noel Sullivan, which features lots of 1980s power ballads from We Built This City to I Wanna Know What Love Is.

It struts into Birmingham to play The New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, May 19.



Roger Rowley as Buddy Holly in a musical of his life

ONE of the most influential rock/R&B acts of the past three decades Prince is back with his first Birmingham gigs of the 21st Century.

The Kiss and Purple Rain star left fans to scramble for tickets (£65 each) with a shock announcement of UK gigs just over a fortnight before he plays The LG Arena for the first time in 19 years, on May 15 and again on May 19.

Following a series of low-key 'guerilla' UK gigs in February, the unpredictable singer-songwriter from Minneapolis will be bringing his all-female band 3rdEyeGirl on tour after announcing the imminent arrival of his new album Plectrum Electrum.

That will form part of an exceptional week of concerts at the LG and NIA with Roar hit-maker Katy Perry at the LG on Tuesday and Wednesday with her Prismatic World Tour. It marks part of the Californian pop star's year-long global jaunt and in Birmingham she will be supported by Swedish synth pop duo Icona Pop.

Then on Friday, May 16, Bangerz babe Miley Cyrus, who has put a Wrecking Ball through memories of Hannah Montana with her twerking antics, is at the NIA. That's the same night that The X Factor 2011 winners Little Mix are at the LG following the release of second album Salute and their Sports Relief Cameo cover hit Word Up!

Young queen of quirk Janelle Monae is supported by Cody Chesnutt at Birmingham Institute tonight. Yorkshire rock band Embrace have made a triumphant comeback with Follow You Home and are in concert on Saturday at Birmingham Academy.

There are opportunities to catch up with several performers that made their names in the 1980s and 90s. Tonight crooner Michael Bolton, now minus his mullet but still able to deliver a powerful ballad, is in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall with a combination of old favourites and songs from his new Motown tribute album Ain't No Mountain High Enough.

Influential Liverpudlian band Echo & The Bunnymen follow up new single Lovers On The Run and forthcoming album Meteorites



Prince returns to Birmingham after 19 years

at the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday. Hits such as The Cutter, Lips Like Sugar and The Killing Moon will likely get an airing.

Singer-songwriter Toris Amos is at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday showcasing new album Unrepeatable Geraldines.

Ex-lead singer of The Go-Go Belinda Carlisle, who had solo hits in 1987 with Circle In The Sand and Heaven Is A Place On Earth, has a sold out gig on Tuesday at Birmingham Town Hall. That's the same night folk/pop outfit Martin Stephenson and The Daintees are at the Academy 3. Ex-Bible frontman Boo Hewerdine plays Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Wednesday.

Lord of the Flies in dance revamp

A HARD-HITTING dance production devised by one of the scene's great talents and featuring several Black Country boys will be a highlight of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2014.

Matthew Bourne's company New Adventures bring Lord of the Flies, based on the novel by William Golding, to Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday to Saturday, May 14-17.

The professional dancers will be joined by 22 young amateurs chosen from more than 300 hopefuls.

The powerful story about schoolboys descending into savagery has been relocated from Bourne from an island to a deserted theatre setting.

Wolf Alice ready to rock the Temple

THEIR'S a buzz about London rockers Wolf Alice, fronted by Ellie Rowsell, and that's not just the ringing left in your ears by their explosive grunge style sound.

The band named after an Angela Carter short story emptied the bars at the recent Wolverhampton gig by The Manic Street Preachers when they pulled a massive crowd for a support act.

They are touring again before the release of EP Creative Songs in June and play Birmingham Institute's Temple venue in Digbeth on Monday. Call 0844 844 0444 for tickets.

Hassle Free Days Out

Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route	Code	Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route	Code	Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route	Code
MAY																				
Tue 13th	Abergavenny Market & Tewkesbury 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£14	£13	n/a	D		Thu 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursions (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC								
Fri 16th	Powis Castle & Gardens *Nifty National Trust Coach Club	£28	£25	n/a	B	NT Member £14	Thu 26th	London Theatre "Matinee Show"												
Sat 17th	York - Nifty City Explorer Tour *Includes Hop On Hop off Open-Top Bus Ticket*	£25	£25	£20	A		Thu 26th	London "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B								
Sat 17th	York as you please... Shopping & Sightseeing*	£25	£25	£20	A		Sat 28th	Abbey, Cathedral & Cheese	£22	£20	£18	A								
Tue 20th	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton" *2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)	£13	£12	n/a	D		Sat 28th	York Fair To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131 £21	-	-	-	-								
Sun 25th	West Midlands Safari Park All inclusive Ticket (inc. unlimited ride wristband):	£18	£17	£16	E		Sun 29th	Llandudno *Sea, Sand & Shops*	£16	£15	£14	A								
Mon 26th	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£15	£14	£13	B															
Thu 29th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC															
Sat 31st	Warner Bros Studio, London Harry Potter Studio Tour	£50	£50	£40	C															
JUNE																				
Tue 3rd	Bourton-on-the-Water & Evesham Country Park 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£13	£12	n/a	D															
Sun 8th	RAF Cosford Air Show 2014	£26	£25	£24	C															
Wed 11th	Tyntesfield House, Chapel & Garden (Bristol) *Nifty National Trust Coach Club	£25	£25	n/a	B	NT Member £14														
Sat 14th	London as you please... Also taking place... Trooping of the Colour	£20	£18	£16	A															
Sun 15th	Weston-Super-Mare on Father's Day *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£15	£14	£13	B															
Sun 15th	Royal Three Counties Show - Malvern *Father's Day* (Entertainment and Fun)	£25	£24	£23	E															
Tue 17th	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton" *2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every Third Tuesday of the Month)	£13	£12	n/a	D															
Thur 19th	Swallow Falls Tour (Langollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls)	£18	£17	£15	B															
Sat 21st	Chester - Nifty City Explorer Tour *Includes Hop On Hop off Open-Top Bus Ticket*	£25	£23	£18	B															
Sat 21st	Chester as you please... Shopping & Sightseeing*	£15	£15	£15	B															
Sun 22nd	Blenheim Palace "Flower Show" Entrance to palace, gardens and flower show included	£28	£26	£20	D															
JULY																				
Tue 1st	Abergavenny Market & Ross-on-Wye 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£14	£13	n/a	D		Thu 3rd	Weston-Super-Mare Adult only Special	£14	£13	n/a	B								
Thu 3rd	Weston-Super-Mare Adult only Special	£2 SEATS FOR £25					Sat 5th	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford-upon-Avon	£15	£14	n/a	B								
Sat 5th	Mon 7th	Bakewell Market & Matlock Bath	£13	£12	£11	C	Thu 10th	Waddesdon Manor & Bicester	£18	£16	£14	C								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	"Nifty" Royal Tour*	£25	£25	n/a	B	Sun 13th	North Wales Highlights "Scenic Special"	£20	£18	£16	A								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	Thomas Telford Aqueduct Cruise and Llangollen Village	£26	£25	£22	D	Tues 15th	Cotswolds "Moreton Market & Bourton"	£13	£12	n/a	D								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Llanberis Pass, Portmadoc	£20	£18	£16	A	Thurs 17th	Swallow Falls Tours	£13	£12	n/a	D								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	Swallow Falls Tours	£18	£17	£15	B	Tue 19th	Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls)	£18	£17	£16	B								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	London Theatre "Matinee Show"	£22	£22	£20	B	Thurs 28th	West Midlands Safari Park	£17	£16	£15	B								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	Lion King OR Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	£20	£18	£16	B	Fri 29th	Best of the Cotswolds Tour	£15	£14	£13	B								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	LION KING £65 CHARLIE AND... £65	£20	£18	£16	B	Sat 30th	Stow-on-the-Wold, Broadway, Evesham Country Park)	£15	£14	£13	B								
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	London "Shopping & Sightseeing"	£15	£15	£15	B	Sun 31st	£15	£14	£13	C									
Mon 7th	Mon 7th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC														



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SATURDAY'S TV 10.05.14

CHOICE



Eurovision Song Contest 2014

(BBC1, 8pm)
Graham Norton commentates on the 59th musical extravaganza from Copenhagen, Denmark, who won last year with Emmelie de Forest's Only Teardrops. All eyes will be on Molly, who is aiming to become the first UK winner since 1997 with her self-penned anthem Children of the Universe, and Ireland's Can-Linn featuring Kasey Smith – assuming the latter made it through Thursday's semi-final. They are likely to face stiff competition from the other 24 countries, including the host nation's Basim with his Bruno Mars-style Cliche Love Song, the German trio Elaiza, who use traditional instruments to produce a more modern sound, and France's Twin Twin, who bring to mind Jedward with their fun dance track Moustache.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast:** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.10** BBC News Weather. **12.20** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying. Coverage of the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.30** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 3.30** Monkey Planet. **(R) 4.30** Film: Bolt. (2008) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta.
- 6.00 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 6.20 Pointless Celebrities:** Eurovision edition, featuring former Bucks Fizz stars Cheryl Baker and Mike Nolan, Johnny Logan and Dana – who both won the title for Ireland – and Sonia.
- 7.10 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize.
- 8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 2014.** Graham Norton commentates on the 59th musical extravaganza from Copenhagen, Denmark, who won last year with Emmelie de Forest's Only Teardrops. All eyes will be on Molly, who is aiming to become the first UK winner since 1997 with her self-penned anthem Children of the Universe, and Ireland's Can-Linn featuring Kasey Smith – assuming the latter made it through Thursday's semi-final. They are likely to face stiff competition from the other 24 countries, including the host nation's Basim with his Bruno Mars-style Cliche Love Song, the German trio Elaiza, who use traditional instruments to produce a more modern sound, and France's Twin Twin, who bring to mind Jedward with their fun dance track Moustache. (R)
- 11.25 BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.
- 11.45 Agnetha: Abba & After.** The story of Agnetha Faltskog's music career as both a member of the Swedish pop group and a successful solo singer, featuring interviews with Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson. (R)
- 12.45 Film:** Once. (2006) **2.05** Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 Film:** The Dark Mirror. (1946) **7.25** Great British Menu. **(R) 7.55** Great British Menu. **(R) 8.25** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.25** Great British Menu. **(R) 9.55** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix. Practice Three. **11.05 Coast.** **(R) 11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. **(R) 1.10** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. **(R) 1.45** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. Talking Pictures. **2.25** Film: From Here to Eternity. (1953) **4.20** Film: The Prisoner of Zenda. (1952).
- 6.00 Natural World:** The Pygmy Hippo – A Very Secret Life. Australian ecologist Wei-Yean Yap travels to a remote part of the West African rainforest to investigate the life and habits of the endangered species. (R)
- 7.00 Flap It!** Will Axon and Michael Bagott are at Coventry Cathedral, where the experts valiantly bring to light items brought in by members of the public. Presented by Paul Martin.
- 8.00 Dad's Army.** Jones's reputation is called into question by an old comrade's allegations about his conduct at the Battle of Omdurman in Sudan. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)
- 8.30 Pop Go the Women: The Other Story of Pop Art – A Culture Show Special.** Alastair Sooke tracks down women involved in the pop art movement of the 1950s and 60s, including Paula Bony, Marisol, Rosalyn Drexler, Idelle Weber and Jane Haworth.
- 9.30 Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers.** Wilhelm is sent to serve in a punitive battalion, Charlotte's hospital is overrun by the Red Army, and Dorn asks Greta to testify that he helped Viktor escape. Last in the series. Generation War: Fact and Fiction follows.
- 10.00 Generation War: Fact and Fiction.** Martha Kearney chairs a discussion of issues raised by the Second World War German drama, looking at its historical accuracy and the controversy it has caused.
- 11.45 Film:** Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960s record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill and Pam Ferris.
- 1.40 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **(R) 6.50** Cannimals. **(R) 7.00** Cannimals. **(R) 7.05** Sooty. **(R) 7.20** Dijimon Fusion. **(R) 7.45** Horrid Henry. **(R) 8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. **(R) 10.20** Murder, She Wrote. **(R) 11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **(R) 2.05** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. **(R) 3.05** All Star Family Fortunes. **(R) 4.05** Off Their Rockers. **(R) 4.35** Tipping Point. Lucky Stars. **(R) 5.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.
- 6.00 Let Me Entertain You.** Viewers' clips, featuring a lip-synching showdown between cheerleaders and farmers on Icona Pop's I Love It, and renditions of hits by Daft Punk and One Direction.
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill puts his own spin on viewers' clips, featuring a hunt for mosquitoes, the 60 Minute Makeover team demolishing a house and a superhero child wrecking his mother's kitchen.
- 7.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec present the fifth annual show as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queueing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance.
- 8.00 Amazing Greys.** Young contestants take on accomplished pensioners, including former England striker Geoff Hurst and Mastermind winner Liz Horrocks.
- 9.00 Prey.** The hunt gains momentum when Reinhardt receives a tip-off about Farrow's location, while the fugitive suspects someone close to home may have information about Abi and Max's deaths. (R)
- 10.00 The Americans.** Philip and Elizabeth infiltrate a rebel training base and attend the church to which Page has donated all her savings.
- 10.50 ITV News:** Weather.
- 11.45 Film:** Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (1975) An assassin-technician is blackmailed into returning to his old career to eliminate a spy. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.
- 1.25 Jackpot247. 3.00** Dinner Date: Australia. **(R) 3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.05 The Hoobs.** **(R) 6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frazier. **(R) 10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 11.05** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 11.35** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 12.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.35** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **(R) 1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot, Lingfield Park and Haydock Park. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.10** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.40** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 6.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 6.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 7.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 7.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 8.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 8.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 9.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 9.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 10.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 10.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 11.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 11.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 12.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 12.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 1.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 1.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 2.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 2.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 3.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 3.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.45** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 6.15** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 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CHOICE**The Crimson Field**

(BBC1, 9pm)
Joan is charged with aiding the enemy, a crime for which she could face a lifetime in prison, and in her desperation to protect Anton, she tries to deflect Col Purbright's questions. As news of her treachery spreads through the hospital, Roland is accused of letting the rules slide, while Kitty is racked with guilt that she did nothing to stop her. Peter is reunited with his brother Jimmy, only to discover his sibling is frightened of war, and Rosalie feels conflicted after finding out about Kitty's divorce. First World War medical drama, starring Suranne Jones, Richard Rankin, Stephan Luca, Jeremy Swift, Alice St Clair, Oona Chaplin, Marianne Oldham and Hermione Norris.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.15** Live Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** Final Score. **5.30** Points of View. **5.45** Songs of Praise. **6.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Crimson Country.** A visit to Lee Valley, which provided a rural getaway for city dwellers in London, Essex and Hampshire for more than four decades. Ellie Harrison searches the area for wildlife and finds out what is being done to clean up its chalk streams, and Matt Baker meets the Sicilian siblings who have turned salad-growing into a thriving family business. Ellie also joins RNLI volunteers as they carry out essential flood-training exercises at the Olympic Water Park. On the farm, Adam Henson is searching for a new Gloucester bull to improve his herd, and Tom Heap searches for proof that climate change is affecting the British countryside. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a second visit to Exeter Cathedral, where more hopeful members of the public bring along treasured antiques and collectibles to hear their stories and find out their worth. Items include Chinese objects that reveal a family secret, artworks by the sculptor Elisabeth Frink, a doll that turns out to be one of the earliest ever featured on the show, and a map of the Battle of Waterloo drawn by an eyewitness.

9.00 **The Crimson Field.** Joan is interrogated by Col Purbright after being charged with aiding the enemy and Kitty feels guilty that she did nothing to stop her colleague. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final Premier League matches of the season.

11.55 **The Millionaire Preacher: Reggie Yates' Extreme South Africa.** The presenter examines the boom in Pentecostal "mega-churches" across the country by spending a week with millionaire Prophet Mboro.

12.55 **Weatherview.** **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: His Kind of Woman. (1951) **8.00** Countryfile. **9.00** Gardeners' World. **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00 Film:** An Ideal Husband. (1999) Oscar Wilde comedy drama, starring Cate Blanchett. **2.30** Badminton Horse Trials. Live coverage of the final day from Gloucestershire. **4.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. **5.00** Flog It!

6.00 Escape to the Continent. Documentary following people from Britain who are considering a move to Europe as they get a taste of life abroad, being shown competitively priced homes, amenities, potential employment openings and leisure opportunities. They also receive information about issues such as property law, local taxation and healthcare.

7.00 Australia with Simon Reeve. The author and adventurer continues his Australian journey in Kakadu, the country's largest national park, where he works through the night with a team committed to culling the poisonous feral cane toads that are threatening the region's wildlife. He then learns how to survive off the land using ancient Aboriginal knowledge as he heads out on patrol with a unique military unit in the remote northern Bush, before attempting to catch box jellyfish on Cape York Peninsula with a group of scientists who believe the species' deadly venom may have medicinal qualities. (R)

8.00 The Best of Top Gear. The team looks back at highlights of the motoring series, including the fastest new models and the most desirable classics.

9.00 The Comedy Vaults: BBC Two's Hidden Treasure.

10.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz with a difference, with Julia Zemiro, Tim Vine, Rob Brydon and Alan Davies answering questions on the theme of folly.

10.45 Film: A Beautiful Mind. (2001) Biopic of brilliant mathematician John Nash, whose genius was compromised by paranoid delusions and schizophrenia. Oscar-winning drama, starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany.

12.55 Film: Expired. (2007) **2.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. **3.30** Holby City. **4.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Cannons. (R) **7.05** Socty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.40** The Simpsons. (R) **3.10** Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story. (1998) **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. **11.30** ITV News: Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rocks. Seb learns the provocative dance move of twerking and gets tied to a lampost. Rosie strips to reveal rather unusual undergarments and Sonia's sat-nav has a mind of its own.

8.00 For the Love of Cars. From its revolutionary design and front-wheel drive, to its conquering record as a track and rally car, the Mini Cooper Mk1 was the small car with the big heart driven by royalty, 1960s superstars and ordinary members of the public. Ant Anstead tracks one down at the back of a barn in Dublin and gets to work restoring the vehicle to its former glory, while Philip Glenister meets Formula 1 legend Stirling Moss, who takes a Mini for a spin around one of the nation's most dangerous roads.

9.00 Fargo. When Gus tries to right a wrong, Malvo embraces his alter ego, while Lester finds himself in a surprising situation and Molly uncovers a promising lead in the murder investigation. Black comedy-drama based on the Coen brothers' Oscar-winning film, starring Martin Freeman.

10.05 Film: Season of the Witch. (2011) Two knights escort a suspected witch to trial during the Black Death, but are not prepared for the powers she possesses. Fantasy adventure, with Nicolas Cage and Ron Perlman.

11.55 Film: Underworld: Evolution. (2006) A vampire warrior fights to stop the eldest of her race from unleashing the deadly first werewolf on the world. Action-fantasy, starring Kate Beckinsale.

1.45 Southland. 2.30 The Hotel. (R) **3.30** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **4.25** SuperScrimpers. (R) **4.50** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 British GT. **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.40** The Simpsons. (R) **3.10** Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story. (1998) **5.30** Deal or No Deal.

7.00 Posh Pawn. Former model Cathy brings in her collection of designer bags and jewellery, hoping to secure a £50,000 loan to help her launch a lingerie business, while prestige boss Jim Corden attracts a mixed audience when he goes for a spin in a client's Ferrari. A woman wants to pawn her grandfather's First World War medals to raise money for her mother's funeral, and an inventor decides to part with his precious watch. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. From its revolutionary design and front-wheel drive, to its conquering record as a track and rally car, the Mini Cooper Mk1 was the small car with the big heart driven by royalty, 1960s superstars and ordinary members of the public. Ant Anstead tracks one down at the back of a barn in Dublin and gets to work restoring the vehicle to its former glory, while Philip Glenister meets Formula 1 legend Stirling Moss, who takes a Mini for a spin around one of the nation's most dangerous roads.

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CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fif and the Flowerots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. **10.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.40** Beware! Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.40** Film: Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **2.50** Film: The Canterbury Ghost. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Patrick Stewart. **4.40** Film: Pocahontas. (1995) **6.10** 5 News Weekend.

6.15 Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) The eccentric pet detective is coaxed out of exile in a Buddhist monastery to search for a missing sacred bat in the African jungle. Comedy sequel, with Jim Carrey and Simon Callow. Edited for language and sexual content.

8.00 Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Characters from the world of Victorian literature join forces to stop a villain from starting a world war. Comic-book fantasy-adventure, starring Sean Connery and Shane West. Edited for violence.

10.00 Film: The Bucket List. (2007) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Palance and Morgan Freeman.

11.50 The Woman with 40 Cats – and Other Pet Hoarders. Documentary giving an insight into the lives of people whose love of animals has become an obsession, including a retired secretary who shares her home with 40 cats. (R)

12.50 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. (R) **3.10** 7/7. Commuter Carnage: Minute by Minute. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix – Highlights. **7.40** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest. (2006) **10.00** In the Flesh 11. **00** Family Guy. **11.45** American Dad. **12.15** Jonah Hex. Tonga **12.40** In the Flesh. **14.00** The Call Centre. **2.40** Great Movie Mistakes: Revenge of the Fifth. **3.00** In the Flesh **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Film: The Wooden Horse (1950) **8.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** An Englishman Abroad **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Dinner at Noon **11.10** Krakatoa Revealed **12.00** The Wonder of Bees with Martha Kearney **12.30** When Rock Goes Acoustic **1.30** Acoustic at the BBC **2.30** The Rolling Stones at the BBC **3.15** Sounds of the 70s **3.45** Close

ITV2

12.20 You've Been Framed! **12.55** Film: The Iron Giant (1999) **2.40** Film: Zookeeper (2011) **4.40** Britain's Got Talent **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **8.00** Viral Tap **10.50** Film: License to Wed (2007) **12.40** Viral Tap **1.20** You've Been Framed and Famous? **2.15** The Vampire Diaries **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.50 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kings XI Punjab v Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Rajasthan Royals. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour of Britain **10.00** Film: Tin Cup (1996) **12.45** Warren United **1.15** Back on the Job: Christian O'Connell **2.15** Motorway Patrol **2.40** ITVA Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Youngers **1.00** Made in Chelsea **2.05** Revenge **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Troy **8.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.20** Rude Tube 2012 **1.20** Troy **2.20** Rules of Engagement **3.10** 2 Broke Girls **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kings XI Punjab v Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Rajasthan Royals. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Cycling: Women's Tour of Britain **10.00** Film: Tin Cup (1996) **12.45** Warren United **1.15** Back on the Job: Christian O'Connell **2.15** Motorway Patrol **2.40** ITVA Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

KICK UP THE 80'S

Saturday 17th May 2014

Whether you were there during the 80's or you're discovering the decades music for the first time, this is the night for you. **Tickets £2.00 adv/£10.00 on the door.** **Package Deal £10.00 to include Venue Cuisine**

90's & 00's Disco

We look back to the very best of the 90's and 00's with our resident DJ **Friday 30th May 2014**

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in the Corn Bow Hall, Halesowen

Guest Artist - Ralph Allin Trio

Jazz Musician of the Year 2007

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 7PM

Doors open 6.15pm

Admission £8.00 Tickets on the door or phone 0121 552 4113.

The Choir raised funds over the last 12 months for Bandsaid

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Trial by Fire, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A firefighter is wrongly blamed for the death of her father, hours before he was due to retire from the department. Eager to prove herself to her peers, she sets out to join an elite squad of smoke jumpers who are expected to leap from planes into the heart of a blaze. Action thriller, starring Brooke Burns, Erin Karpluk, Rick Ravanello and Robert Moloney. (2008)

TUESDAY

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, ITV, 7.30pm

The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman. (2007)



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Tuesday, ITV, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow Never Dies, ITV, 10.35pm

James Bond joins forces with a Chinese agent to foil a media mogul's scheme to start a war between their countries. Using an undetectable stealth ship, the press baron plans an attack on both nations' navies, knowing they will blame each other – giving him exclusive global media coverage of the resulting conflict. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (1997)

THURSDAY

Jane Doe: The Wrong Face, Channel 5, 3.15pm

The former government agent is called back into action after kidnappers abduct a district attorney's wife during plastic surgery – meaning nobody knows what the victim now looks like. The criminals demand the release of the defendant in a money-laundering trial, but the accused denies all knowledge of the crime. Thriller, starring Lea Thompson and Jessy Schram. (2005)

FRIDAY

The World Is Not Enough, ITV, 10.35pm

James Bond is assigned to protect the heiress of an oil dynasty after her father is killed in a bombing at MI6 headquarters. The attack is the work of an infamous terrorist who is unable to feel pain after surviving a gunshot to his head, and who now intends to destroy the world's supply of oil. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau and Robbie Coltrane. (1999)

Pick of the Week

Make a note to tune in to tonight's contest

Blus Engelbert Humperdinck, Bonnie Tyler – over the last few years, the UK has sent some pretty big names to Eurovision. And let's be honest, the results have been underwhelming.

So, this year it seems the powers-that-be have taken a different approach, and picked a rising star instead, in the form of Molly and her song Children of the Universe.

Not that the singer, whose full name is Molly Smitten-Downes, is a total novice when it comes to performing in musical competitions. In 2012, she picked up the Best Urban/Pop Act prize at Live and Unsigned, and in 2013 won Best Song at the Best of British Unsigned Music Awards.

However, she admits Eurovision is in a slightly different league.

She says: "Oh, hands down it is the biggest audience I'll ever have performed in front of – I don't think it really gets much bigger as a platform, performing to so many people across a whole continent."

"The biggest audience I've ever performed to would probably be a

festival size – about 25,000 people – so with regard to the arena, I've done bigger, but with regard to the 180 million watching at home... it's almost impossible to get my head around that!"

But she's trying not to let it faze her. "I suppose there is a positive sort of pressure as the first of a new kind of artist being chosen to represent the UK. This contest can be such a great platform for a new artist, it would be great if it came to be seen as a positive opportunity in the future. There is pressure, but nothing that isn't healthy."

In fact, she's hoping that she can even change the way a few people think about the contest.

"There is a stigma around Eurovision... I would be foolish not to recognise that, but there are great acts that come through the contest – like [2012 Swedish winner] Loreen – and at heart it's a songwriter's competition, so you're always going to get some genuinely great music in the mix."

"That's what I'm doing it for – I'd like to have a career as a songwriter

and where else am I going to get an opportunity for 180 million people to hear my work? How do you top that?"

In fact, she's so excited about the competition, it seems she's not even listening to the cynics who claim that it doesn't matter who the UK send because no one will vote for us anyway.

"This is all new to me, but I'd like to think that if the competition is based on the song, and if the people of Europe think my song is the best, then yes – I definitely think we can do well."

But as she takes the stage in Copenhagen, Denmark, the competition is going to be tough, especially when she's up against the host nation's Basim, German trio Elaiza, France's Twin Twin, and Spain's Ruth Lorenzo, who British viewers may recognise from The X Factor.

Although the most eye-catching entry is likely to be Austria's bearded drag artist Conchita Wurst, who should definitely give commentator Graham Norton something to talk about...



Molly is performing in Eurovision Song Contest 2014, Saturday, BBC1, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Greatest Ever War Movies

Channel 5, 9pm

Back in May 2005, Channel 4 broadcast a two-part rundown of the 100 best war films ever made, as voted for by viewers. In the nine years since then, a few more movies have been made in the genre that could be added to it, but it's hard to imagine that this list will be much different. Those in the know at Channel 5 are keeping quiet about which films come where in the chart, but if the likes of The Dam Busters, Apocalypse Now, The Great Escape and Saving Private Ryan don't crop up, we'll eat our berets. And if the likes of Where Eagles Dare and The Bridge on the River Kwai are missing, Channel 5 will have a battle with many an armchair critic on their hands.

Copacabana Palace

BBC2, 9pm

When you read the title of this programme, don't tell us that the lyrics of Barry Manilow's famous song didn't run through your head, because we won't believe you. But did you know that the tune was inspired by a conversation Manilow had with writer Bruce Sussman during a stay at the Copacabana Hotel in Rio de Janeiro? It opened in August 1923 and in the years since has featured in the 1933 film Flying Down to Rio, and has also provided luxurious rooms for such famous names as Madonna, Michael Jackson, Marilyn Monroe, Orson Welles, Diana, Princess of Wales, Elton John, Pavarotti and Justin Bieber. This documentary charts three months in the hotel's life, following its staff and guests. David Morrissey narrates.

TUESDAY

Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic

Channel 5, 8pm

Adventurer Ben Fogle must have learned how to deal with his itchy feet by now after years of globetrotting, but there's one thing sure to keep Ben in one place for a longer stint of time – his love of animals. So for this new series, he's setting up camp at the University of Liverpool's Leahurst campus, which is home to one of the UK's top veterinary colleges. In this first episode, staff treat a horse called Polo who is at serious risk of dying from colic, and in the small animal clinic, Paolo Silvestrini treats a rescue kitten that can't stop sneezing.

WEDNESDAY

Watchdog

BBC1, 8pm

Once upon a time, people who were unsatisfied with the level of customer service they had received usually had to make do with writing a strongly worded letter. Now, they can very publicly vent their frustration all over social media and review sites. So, do we still need Watchdog? Well, it seems we do, as the consumer show is back for a new series. Not only can Anne Robinson, Matt Allwright and Chris Hollins fight out corner, but they can also expose rogue traders and warn us who to look out for. In the first episode, they turn their attention to a major car manufacturer that has been accused of being dishonest about safety testing.

Billy Connolly's Big Send Off

ITV, 9pm

The comedian concludes his journey exploring attitudes toward death and dying. In his native Glasgow, he visits the Necropolis Cemetery, a Victorian burial ground full of striking gravestones and grand monuments to the dead. He then travels to the Anatomy Laboratory in the University of California as he explores what happens when bodies are donated to medical science. Finally, Billy gains a personal insight into death from a dying man who has embraced his fate and forgiven himself for his former sins



THURSDAY

The Food Inspectors

BBC1, 8pm

Matt Allwright, Chris Hollins and Gaby Roslin – now there's a tough-talking trio you wouldn't fancy your chances crossing. So food outlets be warned – as this new series kicks off, they're out and about with the food inspectors to protect the public from unhygienic restaurants and potentially harmful food. In this first instalment, Matt investigates how clean supermarkets really are by sending an undercover team to 10 London stores to test for levels of

bacteria. Meanwhile, Gaby and Chris discover what's in ice-cream as they investigate the difference between soft scoop and dairy, and learn how to make both before offering them to schoolchildren for a taste test.

FRIDAY

Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis

ITV, 8pm

It's the last in the series, and the Davis family are finishing off their tour in Lancashire, beginning with a trip to the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Regular viewers of Coronation Street and Strictly Come Dancing will know that this is a place where dreams are made, but Warwick's son Harrison initially seems unsure as his family try to coax him onto the dance floor. Their next destination is the seaside resort's famous illuminations, and Warwick has the honour of switching on the lights – but he's glad he's not taking responsibility for the electricity bill.

MasterChef: The Finals

BBC1, 8.30pm

Eight weeks ago, the distinctive husky tones of India Fisher marked the start of another series of MasterChef. Since then, 57 of the original 60 amateur cooks have fallen by the wayside, leaving tonight's trio battling it out to succeed last year's victor Natalie Coleman as champion. All that stands between them and the title are three courses of perfect grub, so they'll be pulling out all the stops to impress judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace with spicy starters, mouth-watering mains and delicious desserts



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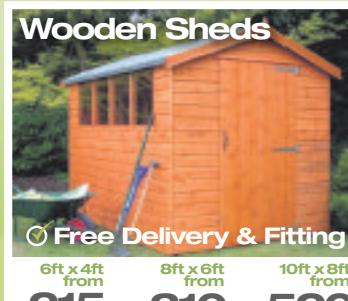
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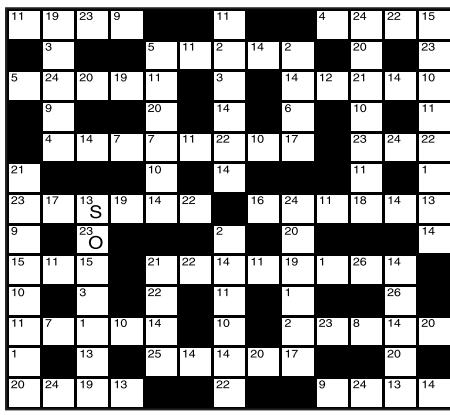
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	O	M	D	F	S	4	A	H	Y	R	L	K	P	Q	13	E
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	V			

Double Crossword

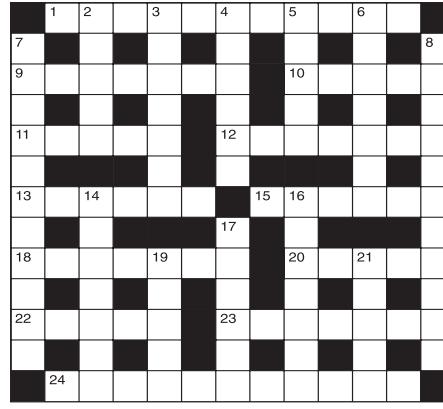
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- 1. Didn't succeed in crossing the ice? (4,7)
- 9. Lets hit out at a symbol of Scotland (7)
- 10. Engagement ring from one who will care, naturally! (5)
- 11. Such zest is nothing more than wind! (5)
- 12. His choice will get cross (7)
- 13. Feel in form, like a cat (6)
- 15. Five have a good look round, but go hungry (6)
- 18. Supervise the making of some plain spectacles (7)
- 20. Pole on the run (5)
- 22. I get shot about in the lift (5)
- 23. It has wings and flies (7)
- 24. You can get away with it! (6,5)

Down

- 2. Gives out the wrong times (5)
- 3. Drop in disappointment (3-4)
- 4. Carried out shoe repairs as listed (6)
- 5. Give people your address? (5)
- 6. Bigger and better (7)
- 7. Dramatic attack of nerves (5,6)
- 8. It's fine when we get it! (4,7)
- 14. A fool tells fibs about girls (7)
- 16. One of the main dangers of war (7)
- 17. Representation of astute formation (6)
- 19. More for the bit player (5)
- 21. Just the group to play an eightsome reel? (5)
- 22. Punctuation mark (5)
- 23. England, Scotland and Wales (7)
- 24. Previous history (11)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- 1. Surroundings (11)
- 2. Sound (5)
- 3. Sloth (7)
- 4. Light science (6)
- 5. Imbecile (5)
- 6. Disregard (7)
- 7. Similarity (11)
- 8. Substitute (11)
- 14. Diet (7)
- 16. Accept (7)
- 17. Firm (6)
- 19. Dodge (5)
- 21. Fit (5)

Down

- 10. Rascal (5)
- 11. Bring to bear (5)
- 12. Coagulate (7)
- 13. Interment (6)
- 15. Reviewer (6)
- 18. Increase (7)
- 20. Talisman (5)
- 22. Punctuation mark (5)
- 23. England, Scotland and Wales (7)

Sudoku

			9	8				6
2	1						3	
	6	3	4	2				
	8	4			9	2		
1		3				8		
3	2		7	4				
2	1	7	4		3	9		
	9					8		
6		9	3					

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

8	4	5	9	1	2	3	6	7
1	9	6	8	3	7	4	5	2
3	2	7	4	6	5	8	1	9
7	6	8	1	2	9	5	4	3
5	3	2	6	4	8	9	7	1
4	1	9	5	7	3	6	2	8
9	7	1	3	5	4	2	8	6
2	8	4	7	9	6	1	3	5
6	5	3	2	8	1	7	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fairness; 5 Diva; 9 Lamp; 10 Calendar; 11 Lyric; 12 Lariats; 13 Statidians; 18 Stamp out; 19 Hero; 20 Erosion; 21 Orbit; 22 Days; 23 Prestige. Down: 2 Analyst; 3 Parent; 4 Scarflet; 5 6 Indiana; 7 Arrests; 8 Melting; 13 Suspect; 14 Anatomy; 15 Impact; 16 Inhibit; 17 Nursing; 18 QUICK - Across: 1 Athlete; 5 Owns; 9 Brag; 10 Adhesive; 11 Hasty; 12 Sleeper; 13 Sooner or later; 18 Restrain; 19 Vice; 20 Chianti; 21 Drop; 22 Nigh; 23 Answered. Down: 2 Tomato; 3 Lighten; 4 Indisposition; 6 Whippet; 7 Shearer; 8 Reveal; 13 Saracen; 14 Ousting; 15 Errand; 16 Adverse; 17 Enclose.

Do you organise events?

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Three-bedroom detached house has been extended



AN EXTENDED three-bedroomed detached property on the outskirts of Sedgley in Sandyfields Road, must be viewed in order to appreciate the size of the accommodation on offer, say the selling agents.

Attractively decorated throughout and ideal for a family, it is for sale through Connells at £320,000.

It has an entrance hallway, lounge with French doors to the garden, study, dining room, kitchen, utility, bathroom, three bedrooms (one with wardrobes) and a bathroom and separate WC.

For further information contact Connells on 01384 214770 or visit www.connells.co.uk



Attractive period home for £179,995



A THREE-BEDROOMED detached house in Bank Road, Gornal is attractively presented throughout.

It is for sale through Bakers at £179,995.

The house has central heating and double glazing, an entrance porch, entrance hall, extended lounge/diner with an archway to the dining area and rear doors to the garden, lobby, cloakroom, kitchen, a formal dining room, three bedrooms, and a bathroom.

There is a garage and mature, private rear garden with a decking area forming a patio/barbecue, lawn, flower beds and borders and a side gate to the front.

Contact Bakers on 01384 252527 or visit www.bakersproperty.co.uk



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HALESOWEN

Reduced

COCKSHED LANE

- Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Integral Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£200,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NEW

RIDGACRE LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms Fitted Kitchen Utility Room Ground Floor
- Three Wall Proportioned Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Pleasant Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

£190,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NO CHAIN

QUINTON LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room Separate W/c
- Block Paved Drive Large Rear Garden Double Garage To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended

£185,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NO CHAIN

CHICHESTER DRIVE

- Modern Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge/Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room Separate W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Rear Garden

£159,950 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NEW

WORLDS END AVENUE

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Awaiting EPC
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens Garage To The Rear
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£175,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NEW



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN



OLDBURY

NO CHAIN



ROWLEY REGIS

NEW



QUINTON



WHITE ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From Having No Upward Chain

£175,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



ST KATHERINES ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Through Lounge Open Plan Kitchen/Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- Recently Refurbished Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

OIRO £145,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



MEHDI ROAD

- Modern Mid Town House EPC Rating C
- Lounge-Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Rear Garden Off Road Parking and Garage En-bloc
- No Upward Chain Viewing Highly Recommended

£135,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



YORK ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Cloaks W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear

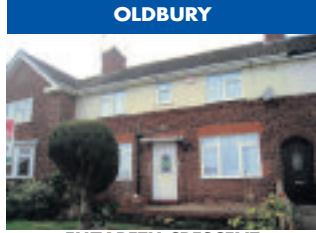
£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



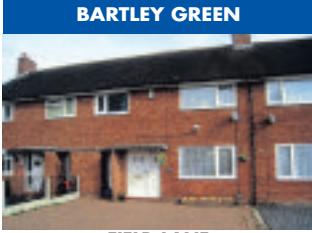
SIMMONS DRIVE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive Way To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended

£125,000 QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY



BARTLEY GREEN

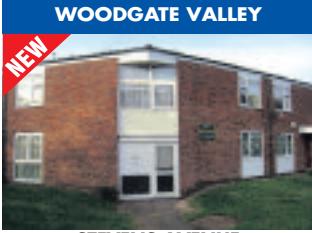


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TO LET

GLYN FARM ROAD

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Kitchen Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Immediate Availability

£675 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



TO LET

STONEHOUSE LANE

- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge/Kitchen Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Side Garage Driveway Garden To The Rear
- Set Back From Main Road On Service Road

£650 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766



TO LET

LEAFIELD GARDENS

- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Through Lounge/Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
- Available Mid May

£595 PCM QUINTON 0121 4217766



TO LET

ROWLEY REGIS

TO LET

ELY CLOSE

- Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment EPC Rating E
- Lounge/Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area
- Located For Road Rail and Motorway Links

£475 pcm QUINTON 0121 4217766

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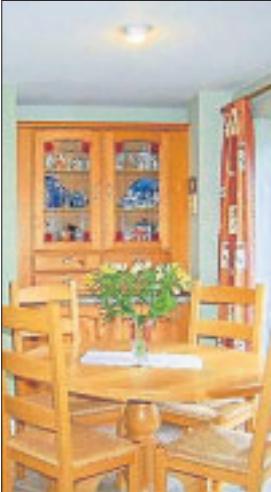
EAS 4891 03/2014

Executive property in a Shropshire village



MILLBROOK House at Neen Sollars, Cleobury Mortimer, has well-planned accommodation in a village location.

Having delightful view it is for sale through Allan Morris & Company at £435,000. It has reception hall, spacious dining room, living room with brick-built inglenook fireplace incorporating a wood burning stove. The breakfast kitchen includes an oil-fired stove. There is a utility room and L-shaped garage. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe plus bathroom and there are three further double bedrooms and bathroom. Contact Allan Morris & Company 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Attractive features at impressive 1930s home



AN IMPRESSIVE 1930s residence in St Kenelms Avenue, Halesowen, boasts attractive features and four bedrooms at the head of a cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £399,950. The spacious accommodation includes a hallway with a wood turned staircase, lounge with a bay window, wooden flooring and an original fireplace, a separate dining room with a feature fireplace and wooden flooring, a very good sized re-fitted kitchen with a double stove oven, Belfast sink and door to cellararette, utility room with a cloakroom off. There are four bedrooms, re-fitted feature bathroom with separate shower, wash basin, low flush WC, roll top Victorian free standing bath, heated towel rail and under-floor heating and tiling. Outside there is a detached double garage.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 58667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



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QUINTON, Ridgacre Lane £795 ppcm - Fees
Beautifully redecorated 3 bed detached house, convenient for the number 9 bus into Birmingham. This property will not last long and features 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, office room, large kitchen diner with fridge freezer, brand new bathroom with shower, driveway for 1 car, large rear and side garden. EPC: E



NEW
OLDBURY, Brookfields Road £775 ppcm - Fees
A superbly proportioned, extended, traditional style family home in convenient location close to all local amenities. The property benefits from large extended lounge, dining kitchen, separate dining room, downstairs WC and utility area, 4 large bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower, garage, long gardens to both front and rear with private aspects. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 ppcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



NEW
ROWLEY REGIS, Wimmed Road £925 ppcm - Fees
A superb 4 bedroom house fully refurbished to a very high standard featuring 2 reception rooms, large fully fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, 3 doubles & 1 large single bedroom, downstairs family bathroom with separate shower, gas central heating, double glazing, private rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. A stunning property not to be missed! EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Middlefield Gardens £565 ppcm - Fees
First floor apartment in Hurst Green, set within well maintained gardens, this apartment features a large lounge, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, parking area and communal gardens. Available now. EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Victoria Road £575 ppcm - Fees
An unfurnished terrace property, close to local shops in Blackheath, local buses, and not far from the M5 J2. This house features 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, huge dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Cradley Road £550 ppcm - Fees
A semi detached house within walking distance to Cradley Heath Town Centre and rail links to Birmingham. This lovely house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, enclosed front garden. EPC: E



ROWLEY REGIS, Duke Street £550 ppcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom refurbished mid terraced property. Within walking distance to local buses and Blackheath Station. Gentleman comprising of 1 large double bedroom, 1 single bedroom, bathroom, maintenance private rear garden with gates at the rear, spiral staircase to the 1st floor to 2 bedrooms, loft room, large bathroom with a separate shower cubical. A must see property! EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Southwick Road £530 ppcm - Fees
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terrace house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, private rear garden, downstairs white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 ppcm - Fees
A super fully re-furbished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hawne Court £525 ppcm - Fees
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood is this well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built-in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive £525 ppcm - Fees
Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your balcony, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £500 ppcm - Fees
Situated in a popular residential area. This ground floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom and lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: B



NEW
ROWLEY REGIS, Farm Road £495 ppcm - Fees
Refurbished to a very good standard and located on a popular estate. This lovely 2 double bedroom house features 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, covered storage area to the rear, modern bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £495 ppcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features. This lovely apartment is immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view this lovely light and airy flat. The apartment has a modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. EPC: D



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £495 ppcm - Fees
A beautifully presented duplex apartment close to shops and bus links. This great place has stunning views and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen with a separate dining area, sun room and balcony, access to a large rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing, parking to the front. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road £475 ppcm - Fees
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £465 ppcm - Fees
A 2 double bedroom semi-detached house on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, split level kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road £400 ppcm - Fees
An unfurnished end terraced house, close to local shops and not far from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This large house features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Great Western Drive £395 ppcm - Fees
A very well presented 1st floor apartment in a well sought after location. Ideal for Old Hill Train Station, local shops and bus links. The apartment features a great size lounge with a 2 seater sofa, coffee table and bookcase, modern kitchen/bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Street £375 ppcm - Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities. Wi-fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pm extra. EPC: E

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Doing More...

Lusbridge Close, Halesowen



AVAILABLE



£270,000

This detached house is situated in a cul-de-sac location backing onto farm land. Briefly comprises conservatory and four bedrooms. Halesowen.

The Lenches, Shelsley Avenue



AVAILABLE



£235,000

Modern detached house with accommodation comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, WC, six bedrooms, garage and rear garden. Halesowen.

Mace Street, Cradley Heath



£110,000

This four bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen.

Meres Road, Halesowen



£110,000

Traditional semi detached house situated in an established residential area. Comprises lounge/diner and three bedrooms. Halesowen.

Lime Street, Bilston



£115,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom and rear garden.

Sandfield Grove, Dudley



£110,000

Link semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, upstairs family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Apperley Way, Halesowen



AVAILABLE



Offers Over £150,000

A detached house briefly comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis



AVAILABLE



£110,000

Comprising lounge, kitchen, cellar, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

Cowley Drive, Dudley



£155,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, two reception rooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

High Street, Pensnett



£90,000

Mid terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Mount Pleasant Street, Coseley



£80,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

Attingham Drive, Dudley



£80,000

A one bedroom terraced property briefly comprising downstairs bathroom, second floor having lounge/kitchen and allocated parking.

Ivanhoe Street, Dudley



Offers Over £80,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.



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Retailers scoop top award

The teams at local Black Country dealerships, Dudley Motor Company, T Wall Kingswinford, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House are celebrating this month after scooping the award for 'Vauxhall's No1' in their car market area for 2013.

The retailers were recognised by Vauxhall as one of the top performing dealerships in the West Midlands, and general managers Rob Gilbert (Dudley Motor Company) and Kevin Leaver (T Wall Kingswinford), were presented with the award last month by Vauxhall regional manager, Mike Fleetwood.

Rob comments: "We are extremely proud to receive this award – we couldn't have achieved this without the hard work and enthusiasm of our team here and on the other sites, so I would just like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of them for their dedication."

"To us, customer experience is very important and so we always want to make sure that all new or returning customers are able to approach any member of the team and are well looked after."

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.*

Personal contract hire offer on Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 in Orange Rock and Adam JAM 1.2i 16v VVT in brilliant white on orders received between 2 April and 1 July 2014, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for Mokka based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,383, then 35 monthly rentals of £199. Excess annual miles over 10,000 charged at 11.08ppm. Figures for Adam based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,980, then 23 monthly rentals of £99. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 7.14ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indeemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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[^]Model shown is an Alfa MiTo 875cc TB TwinAir 105 bhp Sportiva at £15,550 OTR[†] excluding Alfa Red Special Paint at £450 and an Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 bhp Progression at £18,750 OTR[†] including Luna Pearl Metallic Paint at £510. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo and Giulietta range: Urban 34.0 - 64.2 mpg (8.3 - 4.4 l/100km); Extra Urban 53.3 - 97.4 mpg (5.3 - 2.9 l/100km); Combined 44.1 - 80.7 mpg (6.4 - 3.5 l/100km), CO₂ emissions 148 - 90 g/km.

[†]Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. Factors such as driving style, weather and road conditions may also have a significant effect on fuel consumption.

[‡]0% APR Finance Hire Purchase available over a 2 year term with a minimum deposit of 45% on Alfa MiTo Models and over a 3 year term with a minimum deposit of 40% on Alfa Giulietta Models. Offer applies to models registered between 1st April 2014 and 30th June 2014. Retail sales only. Terms and conditions apply. Offer correct at time of printing. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW.

[‡]On the road price includes 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of publishing. Vehicles must be registered before 30th June 2014.



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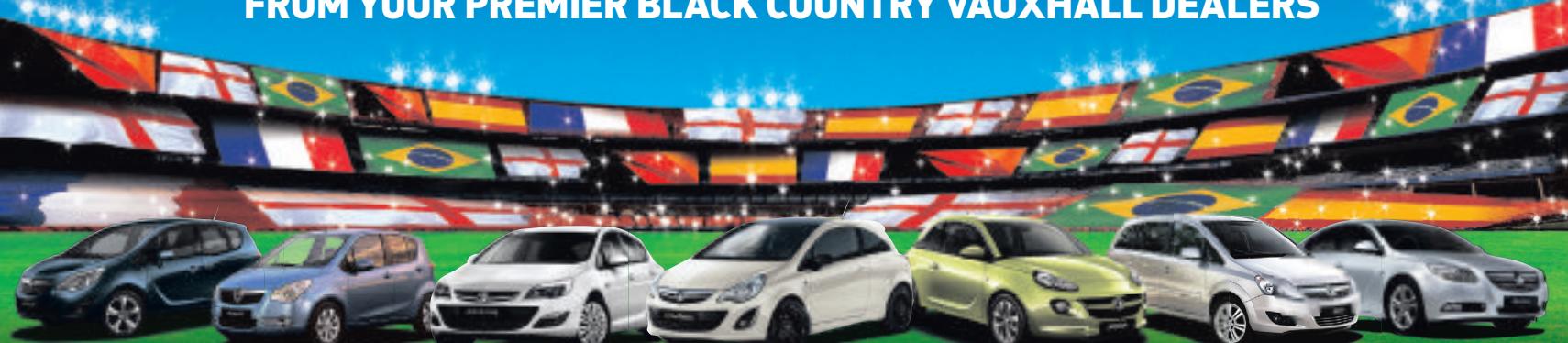
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Volvo hybrid gets boost of R-Design

The super-efficient Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid – one of the best-selling hybrid-electrified vehicles in Europe in 2013 – is now also available in Volvo Cars' R-Design specification.

"We sold almost 8,000 plug-in hybrids in 2013. Adding the R-Design dynamic attributes to the V60 Plug-in Hybrid – the world's first diesel plug-in hybrid – will further broaden its appeal. The customer gets segment-topping performance combined with outstanding efficiency," says Alain Visser, senior vice-president marketing, sales and customer service at Volvo Car Group.

The Volvo V60 D6 AWD R-Design Lux Nav is available from £51,675 (excluding £5,000 Plug-In Car Grant) on the road and can be ordered now, with expected deliveries from August.

The V60 Plug-in Hybrid R-Design features a number of unique interior and exterior features which create a sporty presence. The exterior blends the Plug-in Hybrid identification with the R-Design front bumper and grille, rear diffuser and 18in Ixion wheels.

Inside, the car comes with a full R-Design interior, featuring sports seats as standard with a blend of black nubuck textile and perforated leather. Amongst the other unique R-Design features, it also includes sports pedals, sports floor mats and charcoal headlining. The car retains the special plug-in hybrid instrumentation and information.

Contact

Also fitted as standard on all PHEVs is Volvo's telematic system, Volvo On Call. This system allows users to use a free mobile app to access a number of functions and keeps the driver in constant contact with the vehicle, no matter where they are.

The front wheels of the V60 Plug-in Hybrid are powered by a five-cylinder 2.4-litre turbodiesel producing 215hp and 440Nm of torque. The car has a six-speed automatic transmission.

The rear axle is powered by an electric motor producing 70 horsepower and 200Nm of torque. It is supplied with power from an 11.2kW/h lithium-ion battery pack installed under the floor of the load compartment.

The driver selects the required driving mode via three buttons that give the car three entirely different temperaments: Pure, Hybrid or Power.

In the default hybrid mode, the carbon dioxide emissions are down to just 48g/km. This corresponds to fuel consumption of 155.2 mpg (NEDC certification driving cycle for hybrids).

What is more, at the touch of a button the driver can choose to cover up to 31 miles on pure electric power - or utilise the combined capacity of the diesel engine and electric motor to create a veritable driving machine that offers 215+70 horsepower and 440+200Nm of torque.



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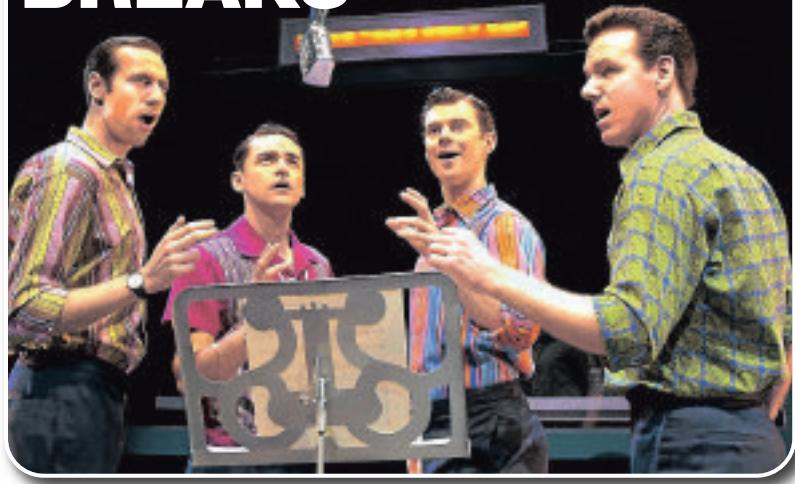
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Family double as club second

Mercian Summer League Round 1

SWIMMERS from Halesowen travelled to Leamington Spa for the first round of the Mercian Summer League on Saturday.

From the first event Halesowen put on a strong show and after the opening relays the team found themselves in a solid second spot.

In total the swimmers grabbed 11 individual first places and ran out runners up overall on the night.

Double individual event winners were Daniel Hill in the individual medley and butterfly and, not to be outdone, younger sister Lauren in the freestyle and butterfly.

Other event winners were Kitty Luscombe and Ryan Spoor in the breaststroke, Amber Harrison, Max Rollason and Euan Vaughan-Hawkins in the backstroke, Dermot Cameron and Robert Jennings in the butterfly and Ryan Davies in the freestyle.

The men's open team also won both medley and freestyle relay events.

Final point scores were; Leamington Spa 253, Halesowen 226, Blythe Barracudas 160, Bilston 149, Lichfield 145, Wom-bourne 113.

Wolves duo must find new clubs

WOLVES have released defensive duo Michael Ihiekwe and Jamie Reckord from their squad.

Ihekwe spent the second half of the season on loan at League Two Cheltenham Town, where he made 13 appearances.

Signed after being released by Liverpool's academy in 2011, the 21-year-old centre-back never made a senior appearance during his time at Molineux but was twice an unused substitute this season and a regular for the club's academy and under-21 sides.

Reckord, aged 22, joined Wolves as a youngster and made two appearances in League Cup ties. He was loaned out several times, most recently to Swindon.

Photo finish finale to motorsport feast

Motor Racing

A PHOTO finish between the two top protagonists provided a fitting finale to an excellent two days of motorsport for the first major speed event, called 'Speed into Spring' at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb over the weekend.

Charismatic driver Will Hall of Halesowen, having sorted further development work on his 3500cc V6 Force, took both Midland Hill Climb Championship top 12 run-offs, setting fastest time of the day and beating local driver and 2012 British champion Trevor Willis, driving an OMS 28, by a mere 100th of a second.

Two women drivers were also amongst the fastest 12 drivers of the day qualifying for the run-off stages, with current hill outright record holder Sue Young, of Hereford, driving a Gould GR51 gaining a total of 11 points and Worcester driver Tina Hawkes in a Force PC celebrating her run-off debut by achieving two points.

Reigning Midland champion Rob Stevens, driving a Force Sports Racing SR4, set the benchmark for the season by win-

ning his class with two very consistent runs of 26.46 and 26.45 seconds, with last year's championship runner-up Mike Turpin, of Hereford, driving his Vauxhall VX220 also comfortably winning his class.

Committed driver Chris Aspinall was a clear winner in the large 1100cc racing car class, which had 25 entries, driving the latest technology Empire Wraith single-seater and setting a class winning time of 26.85 seconds.

2013 Midland Championship top 19 finisher Robert Lancaster-Gaye took a convincing top spot in his Porsche 996 GT3 to

win the Roadgoing Series Production car over 2000cc class with local man Peter Cox taking second place, as he gets to grips with his new Subaru Impreza.

The popular Paul Matty Sports Cars Lotus Championship saw class wins for sponsor's wife June Matty in her Lotus FJ20/22 and Ian Parmenter in his Lotus Elan S4, with John Palmer and Geoff Stalard second respectively.

A feature was a round of the Porsche Club of Great Britain Championship, won by Paul Howells in a 911 RSR, followed by Tim Barber and David Hilton (both in 996).

Fortunes mixed for The George

Warwick & Worcester Bowls League Premier Division 1 Moseley 220 The George 204

The first team went down to a narrow defeat. The scores were level after the first four, thanks mainly to a 21-10 win by Mick McGuinness.

Moseley built up a 23-shot advantage in the middle four, Steve Dicken (21-20) being the only winner for The George.

The back four tried to pull back the shots with Steve Darling (21-7) and Marc Wilson (21-15) both, winning but Moseley ran out winners by 16 shots.

South Staffs Premier Division – No match **Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2**

The George 241 Tanworth in Arden 158 The thirds started the home campaign with an 83-shot win. Will Freeman (21-12), Bill Chiswell (21-15), Joe Arnott & Dave Hill (both 21-20) gave them a 17-shot advantage.

The middle four increased it to 38 shots, Robert Hopwood (21-6), Steve Wyton (21-11) and Liam Hickman (21-14). Wins in the back four by Dave James (21-4), Darren Wood (21-11), Lee Dicken & Paul Rose (both 21-12) completed the win.

It will be tough – Craddock

JODY CRADDOCK is warning Wolves to steel themselves for the 'physically toughest' division in League football next season.

But the former defender is full of optimism for the club's future after marvelling at the transformation under Kenny Jackett.

"They have proved themselves to be a class above the opposition as the record shows," says Craddock.

"The Championship is next and I don't see why the team should not go into the division confidently. They are certainly ready for it. But they should know it will be a lot tougher."

"I always found a Championship season the most demanding physically of every level I played."



Get in there son – Jody's young lad Toby celebrates scoring with a penalty kick after dad had changed sides



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SPORT

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Lye on
cloud 9
to claim
the title

Lye Town 9 Dudley Town 2
In their final game of last season Lye Town suffered the agony of missing out on the title as they let the three points slip away as they lost to the Casuals.

They made no such mistake this time around, however, defeating Dudley Town 9-2 at home.

This meant that Lye were able to claim the points they needed to finally be crowned Champions of the West Midlands regional League.

Lye took charge of the game and were 3-0 up at half-time, thanks to goals from Ricky Anslow, James Spray and Scott Moore.

They ran riot in the second half as Dudley struggled to hold back the tide of blue shirts.

Anslow struck for his second a minute into the half and Matt Johnson quickly added Lye's fifth.

Just before the hour mark Anslow completed his hat-trick with a perfect chip shot over Dudley keeper, Luke Morton, from six yards to put Lye six goals up.

Dudley briefly staged a revival when Shaun Devonport struck two goals in the minutes but then Spray slotted home his second goal three minutes later.

Steve Weaver added the best goal of the night on 80 minutes before Anslow hit his fourth and Lye's ninth.

Jackett wants big support

KENNY JACKETT says it's his ambition to keep 30,000 crowds at Wolves with good football.

Gates of 30,110 and 29,829 watched their last two home games as they stormed to the third-tier title with a string of records propelled by 17 wins out of the last 21 games.

Head coach Jackett wants to maintain the feelgood factor with 30,000 crowds the norm.

"We wanted to do well on Saturday so we have 30,000 people looking forward to next season," said Jackett.

"We want people saying: 'They're a good football side and we'll support them next season and we're looking forward to it.'

"The crowd of 30,000 will only react off what they see on the pitch."

He is keen to maintain the restored connection between fans and players.

Mel set to give Peace ultimatum over future

PEPE MEL is likely to hand Jeremy Peace a 'back me or sack me' ultimatum when he meets the Albion chairman next week.

The pair are set for crunch talks to decide on Mel's future after his turbulent Hawthorns reign delivered Premier League safety.

And Mel will demand backing for his ambitious plans to rebuild the Baggies team before committing for next season – a proposal certain to require significant spending on transfers and wages. Mel signed an 18-month contract when he replaced Steve Clarke in January but revealed last week

Football

the deal includes a get-out clause in the summer. Now he wants Peace's total backing before committing to stay.

He said: "Twenty-30 days ago I was told I would be having a meeting after Stoke and that is the only information I have. But obviously the No.1 goal is not to be fighting relegation. We need to be very clear about how we want to move forward in the future, we don't want to improvise.

"We need to have a clear strategy of how to move forward in the future. I want to lis-

ten to the board and chairman about their plans.

"We cannot arrive at the end of next season with the fear of relegation. We need to be looking higher than that and in order to do that we need to put a very strong team together."

Mel is reportedly attracting interest from La Liga club Malaga, who could offer him a return to Spain.

But he insists he will not consider other offers until he has resolved his future with Albion. He said: "There are many reasons why I want to stay. The club has shown

me we have the possibility we can work together and the fans have shown they have taken to me.

"The maximum respect I owe to West Brom is to speak to them first. Until I have spoken to West Brom no other clubs exist to me.

"The first thing I need to resolve is many players are finishing their contracts here. Maybe the club has different ideas from my own ideas. If we want to be an ambitious club and not be in danger next season.

"We need to have a plan for the future and have a very strong side for next year."



Craddock's boy

Star's big day at Molineux for charity

Page 39

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Heathens
rivalry
renewed

CRADLEY renew their rivalry with Midland Hall in the toughest of Knockout Cup ties at Wolverhampton next Tuesday, writes Nigel Pearson.

The Heathens launch the defence of their silverware after comfortably lifting the cup last season.

And fans favourite Tom Perry is backing his side to make a winning start with the return at West Row on Sunday week.

He said: "It was a good night for us all against Buxton last week – we all enjoyed it and got a massive win. We know next week is going to be much harder.

"We'll have to be on top of our game but I'm sure we can show what we can do and get a good result.

"The meeting means a lot to the fans with the rivalry that we had in 2012. We had some great battles with them that season but didn't quite come out on top.

"Hopefully things can be different this year starting with a win against them in the cup next week. We've started the season well and if we carry on our form I can't see a lot of people stopping us. Obviously there is a long way to go yet."

Friendlies for Smith's squad

THE Saddlers have confirmed two more pre-season friendly fixtures – as they will twice head to Devon.

Dean Smith's men will face Calor League outfit Taunton Town on Wednesday July 16, before travelling to Torquay United – relegated from League Two this season - three days later on Saturday July 19.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, May 8

CHAMPIONS YELTZ ADD SILVERWARE

Halesowen Town 3 Curzon Ashton 1

IT was a day of celebration as newly-crowned Division One South champions Halesowen lifted their second piece of silverware of the week.

They beat Division One North champions Curzon Ashton at the Grove to add the Peter Swales Challenge Shield to their title trophy.

The game started evenly with both title-holders appearing well matched.

And it was not until late on in the match that the goals started coming for either side.

Elliott Turner and Aaron Griffiths went close for Halesowen early on but the visitors almost opened the scoring when Sam Walker's 25th minute free-kick struck the post.

As the Yeltz gradually gained control of the match, Lysden Christie's effort was scrambled clear

Deny

He then set up Ben Haseley to drag a shot which went just wide.

Haseley then held the ball up for Turner to drive wide.

At the start of the second half, home goalkeeper Matt Sergeant made a fine fingertip save to deny Niall Cummins and keep the game scoreless for the time being.

As he has done so often this season, Haseley finally put Halesowen ahead in the 65th minute after being let clean through by full-back Simon Woodford's slip.

Haseley then calmly rounded goalkeeper Hakan

Undefeated champions for the second time



Halesowen Ladies celebrate being champions and doing it undefeated for the second time in a row

Sandwell 1 Halesowen 4

HALESOWEN travelled the short distance to Sandwell with only them in the way of the Yeltz being undefeated all season, Sandwell on the other hand needed to win to finish runners-up.

Sandwell started the game and we were off, Halesowen on good form were playing some quality football creating several chances and first to draw blood with great work by

winger Lyndsey Glover finding Haley Chatwin who headed it across the line from close range.

This goal spurred the home team and with several attacks, and a mistake in the Yeltz defence found the home side striker who scored with their first attempt on goal. Halesowen hit the cross bar late on in the first half.

Halesowen came into their own in the second half and dominated

the game. Haley Chatwin provided a perfect through-ball to Sophie Richards who looped the ball over the keeper. Letford fed the ball to Glover who fired a high shot and the keeper parried it into her own net. Halesowen were in total control and after Letford was brought down in the area Glover converted the penalty. Halesowen were undefeated champions for the second time in a row.

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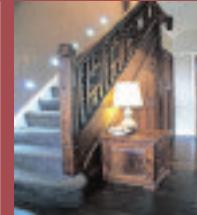
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